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OPINION METER

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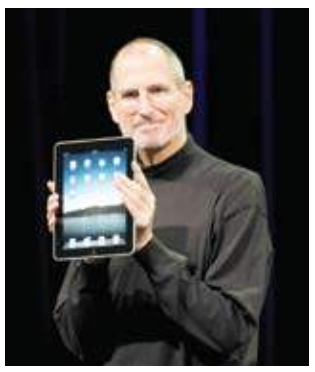
INSIDE



iPad Launch

Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the company's much-anticipated iPad tablet computer.

BUSINESS...Page 20

Union's State

Declaring "I don't quit,'" President Barack Obama fights to recharge his embattled presidency.

NATION...Page 21

Separated

Former presidential candidate John Edwards and his wife have separated.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 26

MONETH G. DEPOSA

Students hold up placards during yesterday's meeting at NMC. Although they were not accommodated in the meeting, they patiently waited outside the board room until the meeting was over at 5:36pm yesterday.

Student rally, petition support Fernandez

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A group of students appeared in yesterday's special meeting of the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents with placards expressing support for suspended president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

But because public comment was not on the agenda, the group was not given a chance to present their views to the full board.

See RALLY on Page 4

RELATED NEWS

- Fernandez still gets paid while suspended.

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BOY SCOUTING WEEK

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos poses with Boy Scouts and educators for a group photo in front of the Office of the Governor on Capital Hill yesterday afternoon, right after signing a CNMI Boy Scouting Week proclamation in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fund suspends resolution stopping refund payments

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Due to the increasing number of members who have lost their jobs, the NMI Retirement Fund board has agreed to extend until July the deadline for members to get a refund on their employee contributions.

See FUND on Page 4

Garment workers file TRO vs fund donations

Garment Workers Trust Fund board chair Timothy Bellas gestures as he talks to reporters yesterday as former garment workers hold a silent protest in front of his law office in Garapan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Bellas says money already given to charities

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In a last-ditch effort, former garment workers and their supporters filed yesterday afternoon in the U.S. District Court a temporary restraining order and notice for preliminary injunction to stop the Garment Workers Trust Fund from do-

See WORKERS on Page 4

Where did the $20 million go?

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In a nutshell, most of it went to the lawyers, according to former judge Timothy Bellas.

Lawyers representing former garment factory workers in the class action against the garment industry received $8 million in attorneys' fees and one

See WHERE on Page 4

'Bullet Magnet' is Kilili's guest in State of Union. **PAGE 2**
Aldan: No VIP treatment for jailed husband. **PAGE 6**

Local

Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Staff Sgt. Brandon Camacho, and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar met during yesterday's Congressional Asian and Pacific Americans Caucus meeting on Capitol Hill. Camacho spent a day in Washington as the guest of Sablan, culminating with attending the President's State of the Union address at the U.S. House of Representatives.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

'Bullet Magnet' is Kilili's guest in State of Union

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Staff Sgt. Brandon Camacho was the guest of U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) yesterday during President Obama's State of the Union address in the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C.

Camacho, who has earned the nickname "Bullet Magnet" among his colleagues, has been awarded the Purple Heart five times and served three tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Camacho also accompanied Sablan throughout much of the work day on Capitol Hill. The two met with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar at a meeting of the Congressional Asian and Pacific American Caucus, of which Sablan is a member. Sablan also introduced Camacho to Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), who is the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

"It was my honor to introduce Staff Sgt. Brandon Camacho to leaders here in Congress," said Sablan. "Sgt. Camacho is someone that all of us in the Northern Mariana Islands can be very proud to call one of our own."

Camacho was born on Saipan, the son of the late Vicente "Pakitu" Cabrera Camacho and Cindy Bower. He left the islands at the age of 15 and enlisted in the U.S. Army at 18.

Recently-elected Rep. Bill Owens (D), who represent the upstate New York district of Fort Drum, Camacho's current duty station, dropped by Sablan's office to have his picture taken with the sergeant. Owens was also treated to the *apigigi* Sablan keeps on hand for guests.

Earlier in the day Sen. Richard Burr (R-NC) also had his picture taken with Camacho for publication in papers in North Carolina, where the sergeant's mother and sister now reside. ***(PR)***

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Fund board OKs $55M drawdown ceiling in FY10

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Retirement Fund's board of trustees has approved a ceiling of $55 million in the amount the Fund can withdraw from its investment funds this fiscal year, a big bulk of which will pay for the pension benefit of members.

Aguon

Fund administrator Mark A. Aguon said that 71 percent of the overall ceiling will go toward payout expenses—pension benefits—for retirees.

So far, in the first and second month of the fiscal year, the Fund has already withdrawn $6.6 million, he said.

Aguon said the FY 2010 drawdown authorization is higher than the previous fiscal year's $45.5 million.

He said the agency cannot go back to the old figure because of the increase in the number of retirees this year.

"We are dealing with actual people here. The increase in the number of people who retire is the main factor that contributed to the $10 million increase in the drawdown," according to Aguon.

Another factor in the increase is the conversion of many members to the defined contribution plan in 2008.

"When you plug into the equation the conversion to the DC plan in 2008, it will give a projected drawdown amount based on actual prior year's expenditures. But this will not happen anymore and it was padded a little bit because of the function of the budgeting process," Aguon explained.

Still, despite the authorization to withdraw up to $55 million, the full amount may not be withdrawn, Aguon said.

"Even though we budgeted this amount, we may not draw down the full amount and probably we won't this fiscal year," he said.

In FY 2009, the Fund reported a total drawdown of $43 million, a big bulk of which went to pension payouts.

Fund officials said that performing assets and other revenues helped minimize the withdrawal from its investment funds.

Yesterday, the board estimated total Fund investments at over $330 million at present.

The administrator said that so far biggest withdrawal recorded by the Fund in a month is $1.4 million.

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House passes resolution honoring Bishop Camacho

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The first among resolutions and bills to be adopted by the 17th House of Representatives yesterday is one that honors Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa on his 25th Episcopal anniversary.

The 20-member House unanimously passed House Commemorative Resolution 17-1, authored by House minority leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) and seven others.

Camacho was named the first bishop of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 8, 1984. He was ordained on Jan. 13, 1985.

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) asked Benavente to read the commemorative resolution before its passage.

Benavente also introduced House Joint Resolution 17-1 which seeks to create CNMI-Guam Legislative Association.

HCR 17-1 was one of the at least 21 bills, resolutions and initiatives introduced in the 17th House's first session since its organizational session on Jan. 11.

On the agenda released last week, only seven bills and one local bill were pre-filed.

In yesterday's session, at least seven more bills, two more local bills, two legislative initiatives, one commemorative resolution, and one joint resolution were introduced.

Rep. Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) introduced House Legislative Initiative 17-2 amending Article III Section 11 of the Constitution to authorize the election of an attorney general.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) delivered a speech before formally introducing his House Bill 17-7, which seeks to create a Second Marianas Political Status Commission.

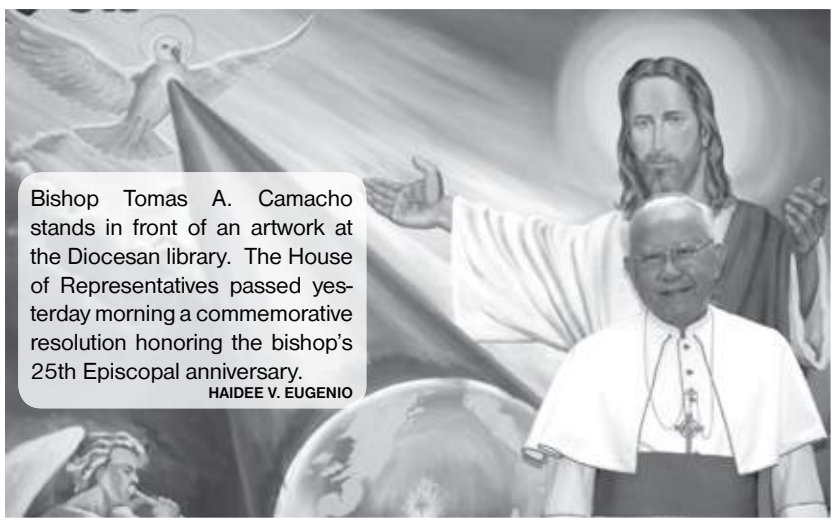
His bill seeks to reexamine whether the people desire continuing its "commonwealth" relationship with the United States pursuant to the terms of the original Covenant agreement.

The bill's introduction came weeks after the U.S. federal government took over CNMI immigration on Nov. 28, 2009.

"We as a people must decide whether the risks taken and the rewards received are commensurate with the price we will have to pay and is it a worthy trade? To have much to say about it, we must have a voice. We the people's elected representatives can give them that voice, and their rightful choice, by opening up a community-wide dialog to examine our current relationships with the U.S. and how it can be changed or improved," Torres told his colleagues.

Torres also introduced House Local Bill 17-1, which sees to suspend the implementation of the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

The speaker called for a recess until Monday morning.



Bishop Tomas A. Camacho stands in front of an artwork at the Diocesan library. The House of Representatives passed yesterday morning a commemorative resolution honoring the bishop's 25th Episcopal anniversary.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial designates Inos to sign all proclamations

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial designated Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos to sign all proclamations declared by the Office of the Governor effective Wednesday.

Since the Jan. 27 delegation of authority, Inos has already signed two proclamations.

On Wednesday morning, Inos proclaimed Feb. 1 to 5, 2010 National School Counseling Week, which seeks to focus public attention on the unique contribution of professional school counselors within U.S. school systems.

Inos also signed yesterday afternoon a CNMI Boy Scouting Week proclamation in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America. ***(Haidee V. Eugenio)***

ERRATUM

In the story titled "Govendo's disciplinary proceedings set in July" that was published in yesterday's edition of the *Saipan Tribune*, it incorrectly stated that retired Guam Superior Court Judge Richard Benson appeared telephonically. It was, in fact, Bruce Bradley, special ethics prosecutor from the Guam Bar Association, who was heard telephonically. Our apologies.

WORKERS

From Page 1

nating $625,000 in leftover funds from the settlement of a $20-million Saipan garment class action suit.

But the TRO filing may have come too late.

Hours before the filing, major recipients of the donations like the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter and Karidat picked up their checks totaling some $400,000 yesterday morning.

Trust Fund board chair Timothy Bellas said the recipients were concerned about the workers' protest so they decided to pick up their checks hours ahead, instead of the scheduled 2pm ceremony yesterday where all 14 charitable groups would be presented their checks.

"Most of the money is gone. I'm at that point where I have a court-approved distribution of funds to charitable groups, and I am not going to hold on to that money," Bellas said in a news conference in his office, while dozens of former garment workers, their families and supporters were holding a silent protest in front of his law firm in Garapan.

But the workers said they are not giving up.

Boon Kong Khonkam, 41, said she worked as a garment sewer from 1989 to 2007 at the now defunct UIC in San Antonio, but received only one check amounting to $72.

"I think it's unfair," said the worker from Thailand.

Annie Lactao, who also worked as a garment factory employee, said she didn't receive a penny from the settlement deal despite working in the garment industry from 1999 to 2005.

The workers, holding placards demanding money that they said they deserve, said they are the "real charity as former garment workers."

"We're not giving up hope. At least we tried everything we could to make sure the money that's supposed to belong to former garment workers get what they deserve," said workers' right advocate Ronnie Doca.

Doca and Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, accompanied some workers in filing a nine-page TRO at the U.S. District Court for the NMI yesterday at around 2pm.

Bellas said the workers protesting outside his office were not on the list of names eligible to receive settlement money.

But the workers claimed they were on a list, which was different from what Bellas' office has.

Bellas said until a federal court order is issued stopping the further release of the remaining settlement funds, he would move on with the distribution of the checks to charitable groups.

The same group of workers held a silent protest in front of the Horiguchi building, which houses the U.S. District Court, on Wednesday morning. They would have wanted to meet with U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson but were told that the judge was off island.

The workers said Munson and or the trustees of the Garment Workers Trust Fund did not consider the physical presence of garment factory workers presently on the island who are experiencing hardships and who were not able to receive the first distribution of funds.

WHERE

From Page 1

of the local counsels, Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown, got $240,000, Bellas said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Bellas, who chairs the Garment Workers Trust Fund, explained this in reaction to complaints by some former garment workers about not getting their share or enough money from the $20 million settlement funds.

"How much their lawyers got? Their lawyers got millions of dollars worth of legal fees. That's where the money went," Bellas said.

Saipan Tribune tried to get comments from Brown, but as of press time last night there was no response.

Bellas said he was not involved in the class action, but that his recollection from the pleadings is that the lawyers representing the garment workers got almost $8 million. Bellas said a lawyer told him that Brown got $240,000 as one of the workers' then local counsels.

He pointed out that, although Brown signed the bottom of a petition filed by some former garment workers to stop the trust fund from donating $625,000 of settlement funds to charitable institutions, this doesn't mean anything.

"She's a lawyer, she knows that the petition does not mean anything," Bellas said.

Bellas said the Gilardi people also got $800,000 just to distribute the 29,000 checks to the workers. As claims administrator, Gilardi & Co. was tasked to distribute the checks to the workers.

"I'm just holding the money. I'm only responsible to the court to make sure it doesn't get misspent," he said.

With respect to his attorney's fees, Bellas said he got only $6,000 to $7,000 for every three months and that he was appointed as the attorney when the Garment Oversight Board became the trust fund.

He said he received $12, 000 to $15,000 in attorney's fees for the whole year.

"My attorney's fees were approved by the court," Bellas stressed.

As for the trust fund's operational costs, Bellas said he had to pay for an employee, taxes, and other expenses.

He said he will release to the media the total operational expenses as soon as he finishes putting together all the documents.

The trust fund was supposed to shut down by the end of December 2009 but Bellas said the trustees want to wait until the end of February 2010 to "close out" their operations funds.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the trust fund. GOB, then chaired by Bellas, was set up pursuant to the settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry. Munson closed the board in October 2008. The trust fund was then formed, which Bellas also chairs.

The other trustees are former California Supreme Court justice Cruz Reynoso and former Washington State Supreme Court chief justice Richard Guy.

FUND

From Page 1

The seven-member board unanimously adopted the decision after Polices and Programs Committee chair Bernadita Palacios made the recommendation to the full board during yesterday's regular meeting.

The suspension of refund payments will now take effect in July 2010.

This was the second time the board extended the deadline on the suspension of refund payments. The first extension was up to Jan. 31.

The trustees had decided in July last year to suspend the payment of refunds to members, effective September 2009. This was made because of the shaky status of the Fund's investments and upon discovery that some members who had asked for refunds immediately returned to government service within less than the six-month furlough allowed under the law.

It was learned that the Fund was releasing over $5 million every year for members' refunds. From 2007 to May 2009, the Fund received a total of 939 applications from members who wanted a refund on their contributions.

Fund legal counsel Viola Alepuyo emphasized that although the suspension of refunds was taken to stop the fiscal impact on the Fund's cash flow, the action has also a long-term effect on the Fund's solvency, which reduces the liability of the agency to members.

She disclosed that a bill is being now crafted by lawmakers to address the refund contribution issue.

RALLY

From Page 1

During the two-hour executive session, students were seen patiently waiting outside the conference room, holding up placards for the board to see.

Among the messages on the placards include "What happened to Students First?"; "Keep accreditation, keep Fernandez"; Who's really behind all this?"; "We got questions, where's our answers?"; and "Education First, politricks never!"

Werlly Quitugua, a senior Hospitality Management student, expressed dismay over what she termed as the board's attempt to terminate Fernandez.

She said the rally was not initiated by the Associated Students of NMC but by individual students who share the same sentiments about the campus controversy.

A signature petition bearing 188 names of students and alumni also highlighted the rally on campus yesterday.

Part of the petition reads: "We… believe and trust in the leadership of President Fernandez and we believe that any move made by the board to terminate her is an act against the will of students."

It expressed belief that removing Fernandez "will cripple the college's accreditation status, which the staff and faculty of the college under Fernandez's leadership has worked extremely hard to obtain."

The same document stated that under Fernandez's leadership, students have physically seen the changes occurring around the campus such as the construction of building M and various campus renovations.

Quitugua said the petition started on Jan. 12 as soon as the board suspended the president. They said more students are expected to sign the petition before it is submitted to the board.

"We expect the board to listen to us because these are the real voices of students of NMC. If they ignore our 'cry' it will discourage students because who will and when will they listen to our concerns?" Quitugua told *Saipan Tribune*.

Although they respect the management and leadership of interim president Lorraine Cabrera, Quitugua said that Fernandez is the right choice for the job.

In circulating the petition, Quitigua said a one-page document citing Fernandez's accomplishments in two years were provided to students.

"We want everybody on campus to be aware of the positive side. They must be informed about the accomplishments made by the president so they will have a better understanding of what's really going on here," the student said, adding that it is her aim to inspire students to fight for their right to be informed on everything that affects them.

A statement from the Board of Regents yesterday indicated that it would soon meet with the honorary student regent, Miles Rodriguez, to discuss student concerns.

House leadership nixes plea to start work on FY11 budget

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Minority Leader Rep. Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) asked House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) and his colleagues yesterday to begin working now on the FY 2011 budget due to a constitutional amendment forcing non-essential government service shutdown without a timely, balanced budget.

Tenorio

"The FY 2011 is more critical because if we don't have a budget passed before the start of the new fiscal year, we have to shut down non-essential public services. It would take months to balance a budget and identify areas where we could cut and we're only a few months away from the new fiscal year," said Benavente.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, in a separate interview yesterday afternoon, said a continuing resolution will exacerbate the government budget deficit.

In FY 2009 alone, preliminary financial report shows over $16.86 million budget deficit.

"Continuing resolution would drive us into the same situation we were in 2009. What are we going to do with civil service employees? We need statutory fix to allow for cost reduction in the case of civil service employees. We just can't reduce their hours or take away a day every two weeks; they're protected," Inos told *Saipan Tribune*.

In yesterday's second session of the 17th House of Representatives, House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) shot down Benavente's suggestion, saying the House Ways and Means Committee is now working on the FY 2010 budget, as well as the FY 2011 budget.

Tenorio promised an FY 2010 budget bill within 30 days from the inaugural session on Jan. 11. This means the House has only two weeks to pass a budget bill.

Inos said the administration does not have a basis at this time to revise the $150 million spending limit for FY 2010, which began on Oct. 1, 2009 and ends on Sept. 30, 2010.

"At this point, we don't see any real, substantive change to the estimate so we're still sticking to $150 million. We still have seven months to reconcile these numbers and they could change as we go along, but we need a budget passed using the $150 million as the spending limit," he added.

Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan), during the session, said it's better to have an FY 2010 budget passed.

"If we don't have an FY 2010 budget, we risk doubling the deficit," Yumul, a former chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, told his colleagues.

At this point, Ogumoro said the Ways and Means Committee is working on the FY 2010 budget and will comply with the constitutional amendment on the passage of a timely and balanced budget.

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Aldan: No VIP treatment for jailed husband

Corrections Commissioner Dolores Aldan vehemently denied yesterday that her husband, who is in prison for an assault conviction, is receiving VIP treatment at DoC.

She said her husband is released from prison on weekends because he is among the many prisoners eligible for the home furlough program.

"We have a lot of inmates on furlough. This program has been…what…20 years old already," said Dolores Aldan in an interview.

She said her husband, Vicente T. Aldan, is eligible for the home furlough program because his conviction—assault—is a misdemeanor.

"Me, I don't want problems. We are professionals here to handle our own discretion… judgment…whatever it is," she said.

On Nov. 4, 2009, Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman imposed a six-month prison term without parole on 52-year-old Vicente Aldan for assaulting his former wife on Tinian in July 2009. Wiseman allowed the defendant to serve the prison term at DoC starting Dec. 7, 2009.

To those saying her husband is receiving VIP treatment, Dolores Aldan said they should stop spreading stories like this because they don't understand how DoC operates.

"Anything that goes on in here is all program. There is no such thing as VIP. As much as possible, I want to transfer him to the United States, Guam or Hawaii or anywhere that would take him away from my discretion," she said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fernandez still gets paid while suspended

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is still getting paid and she is still getting the same benefits for her position despite her indefinite suspension.

NMC Board of Regents chair Janet King told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that this is in accordance with existing policy at the college.

Fernandez has a four-year contract with the college, with an annual salary of $80,000 and an $800 monthly allowance.

Last Jan. 12, the Board of Regents suspended Fernandez pending the result of two investigations against her. These probes—one by a board committee and another by the Office of the Attorney general—involve personnel matters and alleged changing of students' grades.

Yesterday, the board failed to come to a decision on Fernandez's suspension and moved to recess the meeting to Feb. 22.

The meeting began at 3:40pm. It immediately went into executive session that lasted almost two hours. The main agenda was personnel matter.

King, after the executive session, declined to comment on the initial result of the probe against Fernandez but emphasized that the Attorney General's Office is doing its own investigation.

"The investigations are ongoing and we cannot comment on its progress at this time," she said.

In yesterday's special meeting, two regents were absent—Charles V. Cepeda and Malua Peter—but King said they had properly informed the board and were excused.

When asked about the possibility of Fernandez being reinstated come Feb. 22, King said there are seven board members who will decide her fate.

She emphasized, though, that the board is presently satisfied with the performance of interim president Lorraine Cabrera. King said that Cabrera is exercising the full authority bestowed on a permanent president.

Judge explains Quichocho's disqualification

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order yesterday that explained her decision to disqualify attorney Ramon Quichocho from representing Tinian mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz and co-plaintiffs in a lawsuit against then Tinian Mayor Jose P. San Nicolas and others.

"The attorney-client relationship does not depend upon a written contract and the lawyer's fiduciary obligations are not limited by principles of agency," Manglona said, citing precedent.

The judge said whether Quichocho took directions from then mayor San Nicolas or from 12th Tinian Municipal Council chair Antonio H. Borja "is of no consequence to the fact that he undertook to represent the Tinian municipality in the matter of the Marianas Public Lands Trust loan and thereby engaged the confidences of defendants acting in their official capacities."

Dela Cruz and the winners in the Nov. 7 election for the positions in the Senate and House had asked for the preliminary injunction to prevent incumbent Tinian official from performing certain official actions.

In her written ruling yesterday, Manglona said the undisputed subject matter of Quichocho's representation at issue is the Tinian Municipality's pursuit of a loan from MPLT.

The judge said Tinian Local Ordinance 16-2 authorized the municipality to negotiate and execute the proposed loan through its then mayor San Nicolas acting in his official capacity, not through any member of the Tinian Municipal Council.

"Because MPLT demanded that the Municipality produce a legal opinion from counsel, Quichocho was approached by the Mayor's (San Nicolas) representative to provide such opinion on behalf of the Municipality," Manglona said.

The judge said a lawyer retained to work for a municipal body or other public entity represents the public entity acting through its authorized constituents.

The lawyer's "client" is the person or entity who is rendered professional legal services by the lawyer, or who consults the lawyer with a view to obtaining professional legal services from him, Manglona said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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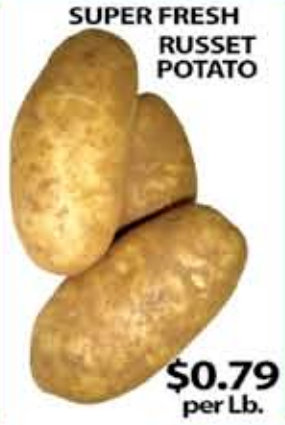

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Forum gives answers to military buildup

The MIMC public forum held Wednesday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe and broadcast live to Tinian and Rota through sponsors NMC and IT&E provided many answers about the pending military buildup in the Marianas region.

The event drew a larger than anticipated crowd and provided an opportunity for community members to get answers about the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and its effects on the islands.

The advisory consulting team from Guam, Celeste Werner and Mike Hrapla, vice presidents of Matrix Design, were on hand to give a presentation of the realities that the CNMI faces in the U.S. Marines' relocation to Guam and Tinian. It covered details of the live fire range, restricted access areas, training frequency, possible future expansion plans, and economic and environmental impacts. They also provided specific details on how to best submit comments to the Joint Guam Program Office so that local concerns can be heard prior to the Feb. 17, 2010, submission deadline.

Each of the islands had three rounds of question and answer periods in which many questions were asked. The most common concern seemed to be restricted access to the north end of Tinian and the numerous cultural and historic landmarks. While the draft EIS only provides potential impacts, the ACT team was able to shed a better perspective on what to expect.

MIMC coordinator Tom Linden was on hand on Tinian and was highly encouraged by the number of students who took the time to attend and ask questions. "The fact that so many students are concerned and interested in how it will influence the future of our islands and culture was very inspiring," said Linden.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial was very pleased with the turnout of the forum and the active participation of the community. "As stakeholders, we must ensure that the concerns of the community are heard," said Fitial.

Anyone who wants more information on the Draft EIS or the information that was presented at the MIMC Forum can download the information from the Department of Commerce website at www.commerce.gov.mp or contact Tom Linden at cnmi.mimc@commerce.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 29, 1999

CPA considers cut in pay and benefits

The Commonwealth Ports Authority board is looking at the possibility of reducing the salaries and benefits of employees as a way to cut down on expenditures of the cash-strapped agency. "We are studying everything that would benefit everybody and still maintain the present number of employees," according to Roman Tudela, chairman of the finance committee. Almost 60 percent of the $11 million budget for fiscal year 1999 goes to salaries and wages of the ports authority. Saddled with a $53 million debt, the ports authority is seeking an increase in airport fees so that it can pay for its financial obligation. This include a 64 percent increase in landing rates from $.085 to $1.40 per 1,000 pounds and a 38 percent hike in departure facility charge.

Senate bill backs Marubeni for power project

A proposal is underway in the House of Representatives that will extend full support behind a conglomerate chosen by the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation to build the new 80-megawatt power plant on Saipan despite protests disputing the deal. In a bill offered by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez, the legislature will grant full faith and credit backing to Marubeni Corp. of Japan and its U.S. partner Sithe Energies, Inc. which won the $120 million project in the controversial awarding announced by CUC in June last year. The guarantee by the CNMI government is required to make sure that it will "assume contingent liability for the payments under the agreement and to ensure the best price possible for the people," according to a draft of the proposal.

Jan. 29, 2001

House body OKs mediation program

A proposal seeking to validate Commonwealth rules that would employ court-appointed certified mediators to step into disputes between conflicting parties has won the approval of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations. Recognizing the merits of out-of-court settlements that promote and preserve pleasant relations between dissenting individuals, the Committee has recommended that the House of Representatives approve the measure. In a report submitted to House Speaker Benigno R. Fitial, JGO committee members cited that the mediation program will be helpful in enhancing an amiable resolution to disputes, particularly in small and close-knit communities in the Northern Marianas.

Gov't eyes scuba diving fee

The government will generate additional revenues to finance marine researches and restoration of sea life sanctuaries once the proposed collection of scuba diving fee is implemented. Rep. Thomas B. Pangelinan introduced the legislative proposal, which stipulates that commercial and recreational scuba diving should be regulated to minimize the adverse impact on the marine ecosystem of the Northern Marianas. Pangelinan said the Division of Fish and Wildlife should be authorized to establish a scuba diving license fee for all scuba divers amounting to $10 a year.

Jan. 29, 2002

SGMA: Garment industry is hurting

The garment sector may be the CNMI's biggest industry and largest contributor to the government's coffers but it is now hurting and it intends to show the government just how it is being hurt. Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association executive director Richard Pierce said the garment industry will soon be making a presentation to the Legislature and the Office of the Governor to explain the inner workings of the apparel manufacturing sector. The presentation has been tentatively set on Feb. 8 or 9. Pierce said that, through this, CNMI officials would gain an understanding why any ideas about increasing the cost of doing business in the CNMI would be counter-productive to the survival of the industry.

Customs appointment questioned

In a move that could possibly have repercussions on the civil service system, Gov. Juan N. Babauta has reportedly appointed Frank Taitano as director of the CNMI Division of Customs. Legislative sources disclosed that, in a memorandum issued to acting Finance Secretary Robert Schrack, Babauta allegedly named Taitano as customs director to replace the current customs chief, Joe Mafnas. Taitano was reportedly one of Babauta's staff members when he was still resident representative to Washington DC. It has to be noted, though, that the customs directorship post is a civil-service protected position, which puts into question the validity of the new appointment.

3 in human smuggling case want the charges dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Three defendants in a human smuggling case asked the federal court yesterday to dismiss the charges filed against them.

As this developed, Jun Yan Zhang, one of the 24 defendants in the case, signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government yesterday. The change of plea hearing was set for Monday.

Dong Wang, Dongxiang Wang, and Qingxu Wang, through counsels Vicente Salas, Mark A. Scoggins, and F. Matthew Smith, asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to drop the charges against them. They alleged that they have been charged, arrested, and detained unlawfully.

The lawyers argued that dismissal is warranted because there has been no violation of law.

"Even if there had been a violation, this court would not be the proper venue," said lawyers Salas, Scoggins, and Smith in a joint motion.

The counsels pointed out that the U.S. government has charged the defendants with unlawfully attempting to enter Guam by boat from Saipan.

"This statute simply does not contemplate the factual situation created by this situation in which a person legally present in a U.S. territory is alleged to have attempted to enter into a 2nd U.S. territory," the lawyers said.

For this reason, they added, this matter should be dismissed.

Alleged in this situation, they said, the U.S. government cannot show that the defendants approached a port of entry on Guam or that they made a false claim of citizenship once there.

They said the U.S. government also cannot show that the defendants made an actual reentry into the U.S. since they never left a U.S. territory where they were legally present.

"No crime was in fact committed by the defendants in the district of the NMI because the alleged offense could have only been committed in the district of the Territory of Guam," the lawyers said. "Notwithstanding their arrest and apprehension in the NMI, this court does not have the proper venue nor jurisdiction."

They added that because their clients were legally in the NMI and had not violated the statute their arrests were premature and unlawful and that the federal court does not have proper jurisdiction and venue.

The U.S. government filed separate charges against 24 Chinese nationals who were arrested by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents last Jan. 5 for allegedly trying to unlawfully enter Guam from Saipan on a boat.

Eleven of the defendants had already pleaded guilty to attempted improper entry by an alien and were subsequently sentenced to one year probation.

Six Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged six Saipan beach sites and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Water samples collected from the Tanapag Meeting Hall, DPW Channel Bridge, Fiesta Resort drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, and Sugar Dock were found to contain concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

The division analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on Saipan's coast every Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

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MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A worldwide disgrace

Around this time last year, U.N. leaders decided that the best way to cut rampant corruption in its ranks was to aggressively ... stop looking for it.

They yanked funding for a special anti-corruption task force that the U.N. created in 2006 after the infamous oil-for-food scandal. They promised that they were just consolidating the task force into an existing U.N. division, not killing its investigations.

Move along, folks! Nothing to see here!

But we suspected the U.N. task force had been too successful, that it had mightily embarrassed U.N. leaders and member countries.

Remember, the task force had exposed about $630 million in allegedly tainted contracts. Its work led to criminal convictions of a U.N. employee and a contractor, and disciplinary actions against 17 other U.N. employees. It triggered the suspension or banishment of more than 45 private companies from the contracting process. There were scores more investigations in the pipeline.

So what has happened since then? Exactly what we feared. The Associated Press reported recently that the U.N. has "cut back sharply" on corruption and fraud investigations, including five major cases in Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa. It dismissed most former task force investigators and the highly regarded leader of the unit.

And then there was this astonishing paragraph: "Over the past year, not a single significant fraud or corruption case has been completed, compared with an average 150 cases a year investigated by the task force. The permanent investigation division decided not to even pursue about 95 cases left over when the task force ceased operation, while another 80 unfinished cases have languished."

Not a single significant case.

U.N. officials insist—insist!—that their commitment to root out corruption is undiminished. "The investigations division, I am convinced, is doing a very good job, and is continuing the good work," U.N. management chief Angela Kane told the AP.

Not a single significant case, Ms. Kane.

Here's what else that AP investigation found:

■ Several task force reports involving accusations of major theft or embezzlement by U.N. staffers languish on the desk of U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

■ The few investigators who remain are hamstrung, using a standardized form to interview witnesses, rather than relying on case-specific examination techniques and pointed questioning.

■ Officials changed guidelines so that U.N. staff members can get away with fraud, embezzlement or theft, simply by quitting their jobs.

For years, U.N. leaders snoozed while Saddam Hussein skimmed money and shoveled out kickbacks to U.N. officials and 4,700 companies worldwide. That was embarrassing to the U.N., but apparently not as embarrassing as all those future cases of bid-rigging, bribery and corruption that the special task force would ferret out. So it's nap time again.

U.S. Ambassador Susan Rice told the AP that the loss of the task force "remains a source of concern to the United States." It's a lot more than that. It's a worldwide disgrace.

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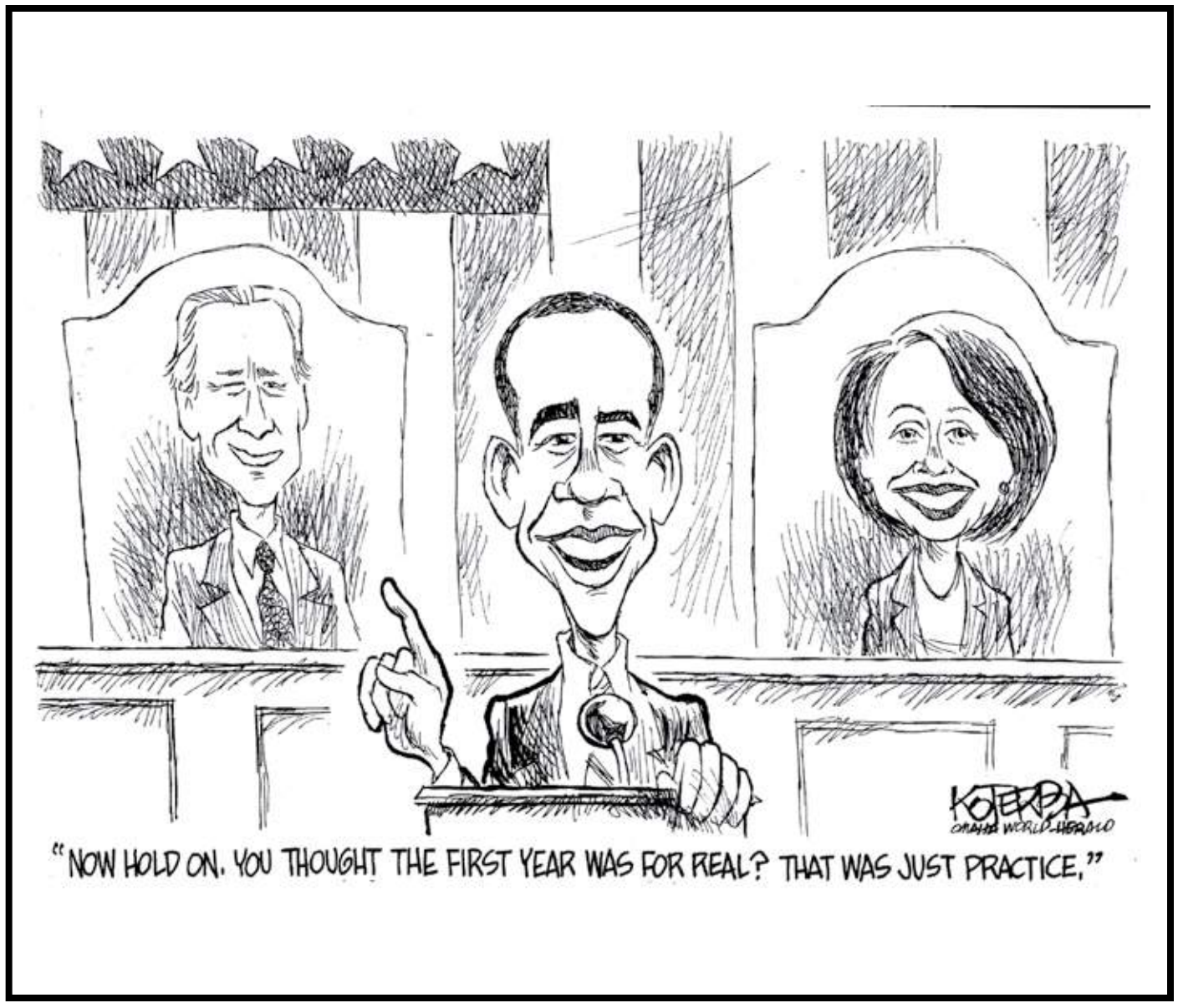

No time to think small

Editor's Note: This column was published the day before President Obama's scheduled State of the Union address.

By HAROLD MEYERSON
Special to The Washington Post

Meyerson is editor-at-large of American Prospect and the L.A. Weekly.

The State of the Union looms and, with it, a shift in Barack Obama's agenda. Last year, the new president proposed big solutions to big problems. This year, as many of those solutions languish, he's come up with some proposals reminiscent of the cosmetics of Clintonism.

After the Republicans gained control of Congress in 1994, Bill Clinton reduced his ambitions to fending off GOP tax cuts and feeding his base with micro-initiatives. While today's Democrats still hold an 18-vote advantage in the Senate and more than four times that in the House, those lawmakers were frightened out of their wits last week by Scott Brown's Senate victory in Massachusetts. And Obama is unfortunately responding by proposing the kind of small programs that Clinton cooked up in his Dick Morris phase.

For the deficit hawks, Obama proposes a spending freeze that isn't a freeze but a cap on non-entitlement domestic spending. So long as aggregate spending isn't exceeded, some programs wane while others wax. For those who want more federal assistance to the beleaguered middle class, he offers an expansion to the child-care tax credit and a limit on student loan payments that are steps in the right direction, though smaller steps than they first appear.

There is much less emphasis on big-ticket items than in 2009, though big-ticket problems persist. What Obama will say and do on his signature initiative, health-care reform, is still a mystery. And when it comes to combating the Great Recession, the administration and Congress seem to be running out of steam. Last winter, with unemployment in the high single digits, they produced a stimulus package worth $787 billion. This year, with official unemployment at 10 percent (when underemployed and discouraged Americans are included, it's 17 percent), the House has passed a second stimulus worth $154 billion, while the Senate, according to The Post's Ben Pershing, is looking at a stimulus of around $80 billion. "There is `big bill fatigue' in the Senate right now," one Democratic aide told Pershing. Good thing this Senate wasn't around during the Great Depression.

For now, the Democratic response to Massachusetts is to step on the economic gas pedal and brake simultaneously. "In the caucus meeting (following last Tuesday's election), people were saying we need jobs, jobs, jobs," one senior House Democrat told me Friday. "Then they said we need to shrink the deficit."

But here's the flaw in that thinking: The greatest decline in Democratic support has come from working-class voters who are bearing the brunt of the recession. Massachusetts polling by the Peter Hart firm shows that Democrat Martha Coakley carried the college-graduate vote by 5 percent but lost the non-college vote by 20 percentage points. Obama carried the Massachusetts non-college vote by 21 percentage points in 2008, which means that Democratic support among working-class voters fell 41 points in one year.

Some of that slide can be attributed to concern over the deficit, but most polls indicate that concern over unemployment is far greater. Some of this can be attributed to government actions that do more for Wall Street's profitability than to help Main Street. If they want to improve their prospects for November, Democrats need to get serious about jobs.

Unemployment's greatest increases have come in construction and manufacturing, which is why only four out of five men ages 25 to 54 had jobs in December—the lowest level since the government began taking such measurements in 1948. To regain support from working-class Americans, Democrats need to back a stimulus bill that not only saves teachers' jobs but also helps to revitalize factories and construction projects.

Ideally, that stimulus should also patch the potholes in our decaying infrastructure. And Congress should act on Obama's good proposal to allot $5 billion in tax credits for green manufacturing so that the turbines powering our rapidly growing wind farms are made in the United States, not China. The $2.3 billion of such tax credits in last year's stimulus was oversubscribed, which is one reason the domestic content in wind-power equipment is rising. "Historically, we invented the technology," says Matt Rogers, senior adviser to Energy Secretary Steven Chu, "but the manufacturing went overseas. Now, there's an incentive to bring it home."

If the Democrats wish to improve their prospects for November, they'll need many such incentives and a public jobs program to boot. If they simply wait for the banks to begin lending and for construction and manufacturing to bounce back of their own accord, they'll do so in the congressional minority {ndash} and perhaps even under a Republican president.

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Us vs. Them

By ED STEPHENS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

The first high school I attended was a giant brick place in a grim confine of urban America that is probably more dangerous than Kabul. At that school, for some reason, probably my mistake in scheduling classes, I wound up in a class for kids who were about to "enter the world," meaning, at age 15 or 16, they were preparing to be, or already were, pregnant (or involved in the reciprocal part of that equation).

The curriculum, as I recall, included such topics as how to apply for government assistance, how to get tested for venereal diseases, how to open a bank account, how to use coupons to shop for food, and how to have disputes with landlords. It was, essentially, a career course in not having a career, which, you have to admit, has a certain appeal from the standpoint of logical symmetry.

Better yet, it promised to be a lot easier than algebra, so I kept the scheduling snafu secret from my parents and I stayed in the course.

The teacher was young, energetic, and affable. I think she was at most a year or two out of college.

The course was basically how to get the basic necessities for free or, lacking that, the minimum cost, by playing the system. I'm not being pejorative with the term "playing," by the way. I'll readily note that many businessmen have high-powered lawyers and other arm-twisters to help them play the system, too.

Here is what I found most interesting about that course: I got to witness the pure and basic nature of the Us vs. Them outlook.

"Us" was basically the procurement side of things, the ones who would give stuff (food, medical care, rental subsidies, etc.) to the individual; the "Us" was social workers, advocates, activists, certain politicians, etc. These were the good guys.

Unfortunately, the good guys had to contend with an array of bad guys who were determined to deny people their entitlements. The bad guys were the "Them," which was the supply side of the economy. These were the grocery store owners (out to cheat their customers, the teacher said), the corporations (who gouged consumers with overpriced goods, she accused), landlords (guilty of various transgressions, she mentioned), the bankers (unkind and uncharitable, she warned) and employers (stingy with wages and exploitive of workers, she declared).

What was very valuable to learn was how deeply held and impassioned the "Us. vs. Them" outlook was. If not friend, then foe. The economists among you will recall texts on "indifference curves," so, let me tell you, there is a whole method of outlook that has no indifference about anything.

This is one reason that economics tends to get broken when it hits the streets. The elegant theories don't always mesh with how people really think. People are emotional.

Anyway, a year after that course I got to spend some time in Europe, and I saw the same Us vs. Them polarization where I went, but this was not the domain of the poor, urban class like in my school, but was instead very much the domain of the middle class, at least where I went. In fact, I think the middle class held the convictions even stronger than my classmates did; my classmates just wanted to get by in life, their chief concern was the expedience of the moment, but the middle class felt a crusader's zeal about it, a passionate hatred of economic heretics, and Europe isn't a place famously kind to heretics of any type.

Of course Europe is a distant mirror for the United States, and so I think the Us. vs. Them outlook in the states is just going to keep cranking itself up. Europe's disputes are over; the game has been scored and settled, the winners won, the others lost. The U.S. is a younger proposition and hasn't even finished the pre-game show yet. But soon enough, everybody is going to be mad at everybody else. Well, madder. Maybe they can hand out more meds or something, but then they'll fight over who pays for them. See? It's not a harmonious situation.

As for Saipan and the Commonwealth, its version of Us vs. Them is such an entrenched part of life (not mine) that I don't even notice it any longer.

So I'm back where I started; even though I've witnessed a lot of Us vs. Them over the past few decades, it can't shake me out of my apathy. All I want is to be left alone. Hopefully, one of the benefits of not having any class is that when the class warfare heats up, nobody tries to draft me into the battles.

Keeping the thief away

By DAVID KHORRAM, M.D.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Recently I was speaking at a healthcare conference about advances in diabetic eye care, and someone from the audience asked a very good question: "What is the most common symptom of diabetic eye disease?"

I thought for a moment, and realized that the most common symptom is a very dangerous symptom. In fact I believe the most common symptom of diabetic eye disease is the most dangerous symptom in all of medicine. It is a symptom that is common to many diseases in medicine. The most common symptom of diabetic eye disease is that there is no symptom. That's right. Most people with diabetic eye disease have no symptoms at all—no pain, no redness, no itching, no blurred vision, no headaches, nothing. The reason that no symptom is the most dangerous symptom is because you can have diabetic eye disease and not even know it. The damage can get worse and worse for weeks, months, even years, and because there are no symptoms, you go about your days not knowing the damage is taking place. You may even forget that diabetes can cause blindness. The lack of symptoms can lull you into a false sense of confidence about your eyes.

Then one day you wake up and your vision is worse. There was no warning.

So what can you do about this? How can you make sure that the eye damage from diabetes, the loss of vision doesn't sneak up on you? The answer is simple, and you may have guessed it. You keep an eye on things. You look for the disease because you know it won't give you any warnings as it silently creeps up to steal your sight. And how do you do that? You get your eyes examined every year. Sure, it can be a bit of trouble to go see an eye doctor, but this simple step allows you and your doctor to know what is going on with the diabetes in your eye and catch it before it blinds you. The damage can be treated, but only if you know that it is happening, and the only way to do that is by having an eye exam.

I've treated thousands of patients with diabetic eye disease. And those who come in before they have symptoms, those who come in when nothing is wrong with their eyes, are the ones who keep their vision. Once symptoms begin, once the vision gets worse from diabetic eye disease it can still be treated. But it's much easier to take the time to lock your doors and windows, than it is to catch the thief once he's running away with your vision. Lock the doors. Get your eyes examined.

If you have diabetes don't put off your eye exam for another day. It can be the difference between a life in light or a life in darkness.

David Khorram is a board-certified ophthalmologist and the Director of the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care at Marianas Eye Institute. He is listed in "Guide to America's Top Ophthalmologists." He is the editor of TheRetinaBlog.com, an online journal used by eye specialists around the world to stay current with latest advances. He may be reached at 670-235-9090 or through www.MarianasEye.com.

Letters to the Editor

The need to look at Article XII is now

I was recently in Japan and met with several prominent businessmen form large and medium corporations. Investment was of course the topic of the discussions and in particular, Article XII.

For some reasons, I was surprised at their depth of knowledge regarding Article XII. I was not surprised, however, at their reactions, which is that, so long as Article XII remains, serious investments on the islands will be undesirable and will continue to restrict how they will invest.

The need for us to really look at Article XII is *now*. Our economy is at a very low point in our 25 years of being a commonwealth and sadly, our economy has no prospective investment opportunities and will most likely continue its downward trend.

We need to be objective as abolishing Article XII does not mean one has to sell his or her land. Abolishing Article XII will free up land for the landowner to decide what is best for them. Thus, long term lease is still an option but for those that prefer, the abolition of Article XII would allow fee simple transactions. At the present, Article XII does not allow the disposing of private property on a fee simple basis other than to NMD. Oftentimes, this means the true value is not realized.

Those that need help the most such as young couples or people starting out are being held back from obtaining bank loans as banks are not interested in long term land leases as collateral. Article XII has many times been a hindrance for locals to obtain a loan to build their first home.

Another concern often heard in the community about abolishing Article XII is that culture will disappear. This is not so. For those who have traveled to the U.S. mainland, cultures from various ethnicities are evident. For example, there is Chinatown in San Francisco and I often hear of Chamorros getting together in Washington State, California, Idaho and other places for BBQs, which is an example of carrying out culture.

We, the members of the Citizen for Change of Article XII, respectfully request that we all take the time to study the background to Article XII. Review the analysis of the Constitution. It is the document that carries the intention of Article XII.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

A tough decision

Again, the issue of cutback is on the table. When we cut back, we need to look at ways to minimize the negative impact it will bring to those that will be affected. I know it is a tough decision to make but leaders have to act. Remember, leadership is not about position; it is action that makes a leader.

I am recommending that adjusting the work hours government employees start their work is a good approach. Why? In the morning, there can be more time to attend to family activities before going to work, i.e., prepare kids for school, feed livestock, tend the garden, shopping for the day's consumption, early morning fishing, early morning gardening etc. This will also allow quality time for families. There are activities that, if practiced, can supplement the loss incurred by the reduction of hours.

Of course, the same can be realized by shutting down the government on Fridays but how about the responsibility of the government to service the private sector? Remember, it is the private sector that pays the taxes that run the government. Not providing needed services to the private sector can negatively impact the economy.

Of course it is wise to cut back but it is not wise to cut back for the convenience of the government and not to take into account the sector that provides the bread that allows the government to survive. The decision should be one where everyone wins.

Frank M. Atalig
Sinapalo, Rota

Defiance

A media assault is what our governor calls it. In my view it's called abuse of authority and defiance against the federal laws. In complete defiance and ignorance, a federal detainee was escorted by our local Corrections officers in charge without proper authorization by the federal government to relieve Governor Fitial's back problems at his private residence. The issue is that 24 illegal aliens were being smuggled into our neighboring island, Guam. Once again I ask the question, was the individual released and escorted to the governor's private residence a foreign national charged with human smuggling? When will the bad reputation and image of our homeland be restored? Its up to Ben, Pete, Froilan, and old Stanley. If I left anyone out, you know who you are.

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
President, Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

Clarification

A clarification needs to be made regarding the article that appeared in the *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010, about PAWS reward for information leading to the apprehension of the individual or individuals responsible for the gruesome beheading of a cat in Garapan on or about Jan. 24, 2010.

Since NMI Crime Stoppers has agreed to assist in getting information on this terrible act, PAWS has agreed to step aside until such time an apprehension has been made. The reward PAWS is offering is on top of any award given anonymously by Crime Stoppers, if a call leads to the identification and arrest of the person or persons who committed this act.

Any and all information regarding this act should directed to NMI Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 or https://nmicrimestoppers.com/tippost.asp.

Bobbi Grizzard
Treasurer, PAWS

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼74°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°	▲86° ▼76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼74
Palau	Sunny	▲88	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲85	▼76
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲90	▼80
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲85	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲83	▼78

Around The Globe

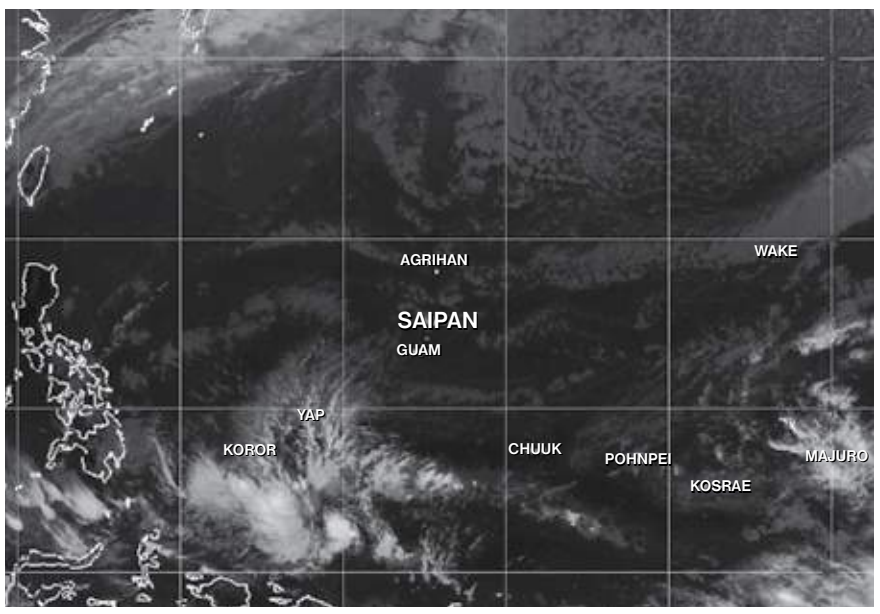
Auckland	Sunny	▲73	▼64
Beijing	Sunny	▲39	▼21
Hong Kong	Showers	▲72	▼63
Honolulu	Showers	▲78	▼67
London	Rain/Snow	▲39	▼30
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Manila	Sunny	▲89	▼73
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲74	▼55
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲28	▼17
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲45	▼33
Paris	Rain	▲40	▼27
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲46	▼25
Rome	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼41
Salem	Rain	▲48	▼36
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲57	▼47
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	▲32	▼16
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲49	▼33
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	▲34	▼22

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:42 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
7:53 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:04 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
6:04 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 2010

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from 25N177E to Wake Island at 19N166E then continues westward as a shear line to end near Saipan at 16N144E. Broken cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. Overcast clouds and scattered showers are present along and up to 200 miles northwest of the cold front. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from 2N130E through a weak circulation centered southeast of Palau near 4N139E to 3N150E then curves southeastward to end near EQ160E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are occurring south of Koror within 125 miles of a line from 5N132E to 2N140E. Scattered showers are located southeast of Yap and south of Chuuk within 60 miles of a line from 6N143E to 5N150E to 3N157E. A trade-wind disturbance crossing the Marshall Islands is producing scattered showers over Majuro and just northeast of Butaritari Atoll within 150 miles of a line from 8N171E to 2N178e.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Saturday	6:47 AM	6:14 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:15 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:10 PM	5:29 AM
Saturday	6:16 PM	6:25 AM
Sunday	7:20 PM	7:16 AM
Monday	8:20 PM	8:03 AM
Tuesday	9:19 PM	8:47 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

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ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 28, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT
NW638	8:00am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily
NW289	5:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA8282	3:15am	7:00am	1, 5

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/893	3:15pm	9:10pm	3, 5 via GUM-PALAU
OZ606/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily via NRT effective Jan 25
NW277	8:30pm	1:00am+1	3, 6
NW639	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW290	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW298	10:05am	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	9:00pm	1:35am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA8281	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CA: China Airlines; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Deadline for Census student poster contest

The deadline to submit entries for the 2010 CNMI Census Student Poster Contest is today, Jan. 29, 2010. The contest is open to all CNMI public and private school students and cash prizes will be awarded to the winning students and their schools.

Winning designs will be used by the CNMI Census to promote and highlight the 2010 Census in the CNMI through the media and Census partners. Winning posters will be used in a variety of ways for the awareness campaign, the reminder campaign and the thank you campaign. For more information call the Local Census Office at 288-3027/23. ***(PR)***

Kagman Community Center cleanup

The Kagman Komunidat Association is going to clean up the Kagman Community Center. There are books and other materials that have been damaged by termites. For those who want to claim their belongings—any individuals, governmental agency, private entity—contact the association ASAP. After Feb. 10, 2010, no claims will be honored. Please call to make an appointment to gather your belongings. Please be prepared to present identification forms that will show your ownership, when and why you put the things in the center. Call 285-2221 (Daniel) or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Free H1N1 vaccination tomorrow

Due to the high demand for H1N1 vaccines, the Department of Public Health will be conducting free H1N1 mass vaccination drives this Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at the Cervical Cancer Fair at the Fishing Basin in Garapan from 8am to 1pm and at the HeadStart Symposium at the Laulau Bay Resort in Kagman from 7:30am to 2:30pm. The public can also visit any health clinic in the CNMI to get vaccinated! To learn more, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 Web site at h1n1dph.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held today, Jan. 29, 2010, at the Kagman Community Center parking lot. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that will take place every government payday. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. This week's vendors feature Lynn's Barbeque, Fong's Bakery, Champs Shave Ice, U2 Collections, and The Library Bookmobile. The Kagman Friday Night Market is looking for interested vendors to sell food, drinks, produce, fish, clothing, and crafts. Interested vendors can call 256-7678 or email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

Retirees' group meets today

The Commonwealth Retirement Association's board of directors will have a meeting today, Jan. 29, 2010. The agenda will include the adoption of minutes, report from the chairman, meeting with Rep. Kilili Sablan and PSS Commissioner, etc. ***(PR)***

ABE Spring 2010 registration and student orientation

Registration for the Northern Marianas College's Adult Basic Education Program, which handles the General Education Development, the Adult High School, and the English as a Second Language programs, will end today, Jan. 29, 2010.

ABE Student Orientation will be hosted on Monday, Feb. 1, 2010, from 5pm to 6:30pm in Room D-1, across the NMC Bookstore.

For more information, contact the Adult Basic Education office at 234-5498 Ext. 1723; visit their office at Building G at the college's As Terlaje campus, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. ***(PR)***

Autism Society of the CNMI meeting on Jan. 30

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Huge rummage sale tomorrow

The families of Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center have joined together for a huge rummage sale that will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 30, from 8am to 1pm, at the Sister Remedios School (enter the road across Payless Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa; the school is right behind the Glory Market).

A portion of each vendor's proceeds plus all vendor fees will go toward helping the school. Come by and support the Sister Remedios Early Childhood Development Center. Don't miss out! There will be so many items to choose from. Lots of big bargains! ***(PR)***

Kagman Saturday Flea Market tomorrow

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. It will be held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents will be provided. Interested sellers can call 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

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2X4X20 - $6.10	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X18 - $14.50
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TOYOTA ACDelco

Students make designs a reality in FOA production

The Friends of the Arts is partnering with the CNMI's International Thespian Society Chapter for their upcoming production, *Lend Me A Tenor.*

The Tony-award winning Broadway comedy by Ken Ludwig is directed by Harold Easton and features costumes and set design by students from Kagman High School, Marianas High School, and Saipan Southern High School who compete in those design categories in the Thespian competitions here in the CNMI. The student designers are Allison Madamba (SSHS), Lara Lleva (KHS), and from MHS: Donna Monton, Haeri Kim, Helen Choi, Rochelle Dimapilis, and Rozette Bunao.

The students submitted their costume sketches and designs in the International Thespian competitions held in December 2009. Now, with the support of the local community and businesses, Friends of the Arts can provide the Thespians with the practical application of making their designs and plans come to life.

"The students will now be able to follow their designs through to 'on stage' completion, which should not only prove very rewarding, but assist them in decisions they make about future design projects," said Easton. "Although the CNMI has had the second and eight place winners in the National International Thespian competition in costume design, this will be the first time their designs have reached the stage."

TICKETS

- Regular show: $10 student, $12 FOA adult, $15 non-FOA adult
- Dinner theatre: $60 for FOA members, $75 non-FOA adult

CONTACT INFO

- Dr. Susan Fishman-Tudor, 287-2225
- Frank Gibson, 287-7476 (flgibson@yahoo.com)

MHS student Dimapilis said, "Designing for a show is a really tedious task but its reward is worth the time spent because of the hard work that I've put into the designs. Not only that but my skills in research and sketching have improved dramatically."

Rozette Bunao added: "I'm actually proud of myself, as well as cooperating with my friends and people from other schools."

Donna Morton drew on a Ralph Waldo Emerson quote, "All life is an experiment. The more experiments you make the better."

Performing at Pacific Islands Club, the play will run on the evenings of Feb. 12 to the 14, starting at 7pm each night with a special Dinner Theatre showing on Valentine's Day. Tickets are on sale now for $10 student, $12 FOA adult, $15 non-FOA adult and for the dinner theatre show, $60 for FOA members, $75 non-FOA adult. Get your tickets today by calling FOA president Dr. Susan Fishman-Tudor at 287-2225, Frank Gibson at 287-7476 (flgibson@yahoo.com), other FOA Board members, cast members, or by purchasing at PIC Front Desk. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday, Pauline Pua Arurang! "A birthday is just the first day of another 365-day journey around the sun. Enjoy the trip!" She is shown in this picture with her husband, Frank Arurang. Greetings come out from your loving husband and kids and most especially Jammie, Harlee, Jovan, JM, Shawn, and Kurt!

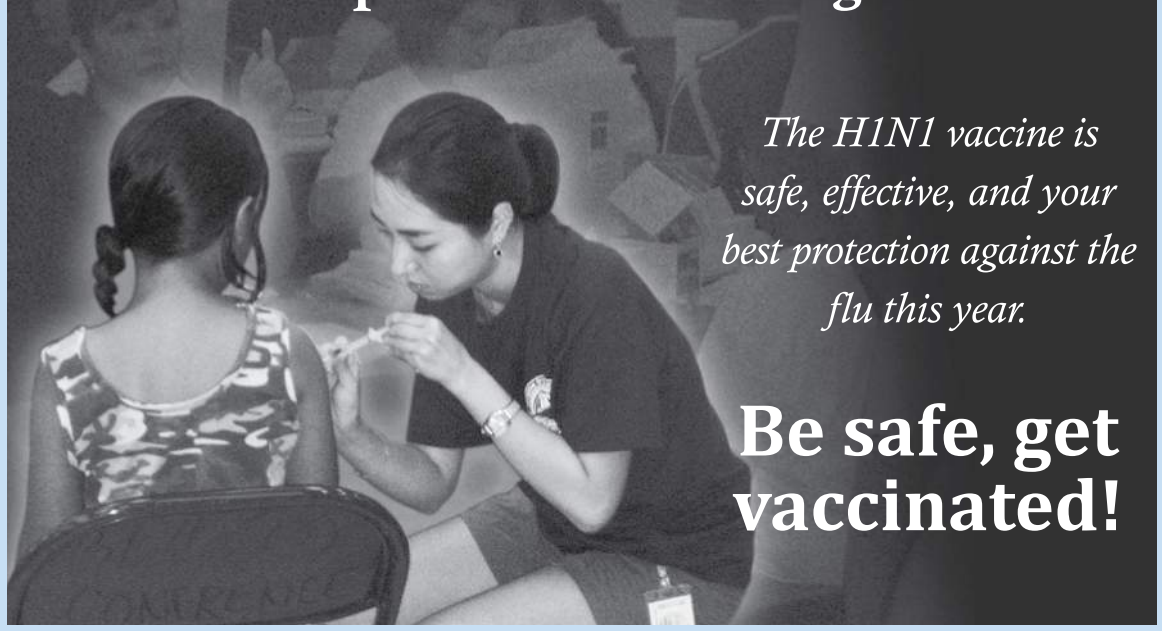
FREE

H1N1 Mass Vaccination Drives will be held on:

January 30th

- Cervical Cancer Health Fair, Fishing Basin in Garapan from 8:00am to 1:00pm
- Head Start Health Symposium LaoLao Bay Golf Resort in Kagman from 7:30am to 2:30pm

You can also visit any health clinic on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to get vaccinated.


The more people vaccinated, the less likely the flu will spread in the coming months.
The H1N1 vaccine is safe, effective, and your best protection against the flu this year.
Be safe, get vaccinated!

CDC Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

For more information, visit the Department of Public Health's H1N1 website at H1N1dph.gov.mp or email fluwatchcnmi@gmail.com

NMC, PSS to host seminar for high school seniors

NMC

High school seniors participate in the Start Smart Seminar hosted by the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System in this March 2009 file photo. The next Start Smart Seminar is scheduled on Feb. 8-9, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall.

The Northern Marianas College, in cooperation with the CNMI Public School System, will be hosting its second Senior Start Smart Seminar, a workshop geared toward educating high school seniors about college. The event will be made possible through federal funds provided by the College Access Challenge Project, a grant program under the U.S. Department of Education.

The Start Smart seminar will be composed of various presentations from PSS, NMC and NMC alumni. With the guidance of NMC and PSS staff, students will be given a broad overview of options for grants and various financial assistance programs available at the college. Hands-on activities will also be a part of the seminar to help enhance exposure on proper ways to fill and complete college applications and financial aid forms.

Aside from personal guidance, current NMC students and alumni will also be sharing personal views and experiences of life in college and using NMC as an example. Presenters will share options of academic programs being offered at NMC. Academic options include: education, nursing, criminal justice, liberal arts, business, and hospitality management.

"The Start Smart Seminar is an excellent way to provide high school seniors a comfortable forum to learn and ask questions about what college is like and what college life usually entails," said NMC dean of Student Services Leo Pangelinan. "We are looking forward to engaging the students and helping them prepare for life after high school."

The first Senior Start Smart Seminar was held last year in March with students from Marianas High School, Kagman High School and Saipan Southern High School. The Start Smart seminar to be held next month will be composed of new senior students from the same schools.

"We want to ensure that we work vigorously once again with PSS staff for a successful outcome of the upcoming Start Smart session. Most importantly, we would like to reach our goal in educating high school students about their future in college," said NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera. "We greatly appreciate the assistance and cooperation of PSS staff and faculty in our efforts to facilitate the workshop."

The upcoming Senior Start Smart Seminar is scheduled to be held on Feb. 8-9, 2010, at the Saipan World Resort's Taga Hall. The event will be from 8am to 2:45pm. ***(NMC)***

Bordallo meets with Interior's Salazar

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) met yesterday with Interior Secretary Ken Salazar during a meeting of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. Salazar was invited by members of the caucus to present him with priorities important to their districts and the Asian American and Pacific Islander community. Also in attendance at the meeting was Tony Babauta, Assistant Secretary of Insular Areas at the U.S. Department of the Interior.

"During [yesterday's] meeting with Secretary Salazar, I thanked him for his support in the inclusion of H.R. 44 in last year's discussion of the National Defense Authorization Act for 2010," Bordallo said. "Secretary Salazar reiterated the Obama Administration's support in resolving the issue of Guam War Claims this year.

"I also expressed the importance of the Department of the Interior in addressing civilian infrastructure issues on Guam in preparation of the military buildup and the expected increase in population. Secretary Salazar shared my concerns and assured me that these issues are being heard by senior officials within the Administration, and he would work towards securing federal support for civilian infrastructure funding.

"I also raised the issue of Compact-Impact reimbursement for Guam to the Secretary. He informed me that he was aware of the issue and has offered to work with Guam, through Assistant Secretary Babauta, on addressing this issue." ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BID

The United States Department of Agriculture/ Natural Resources Conservation Service will be accepting bids for Waterway A, B & C construction work for the Kagman Watershed project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Performance time is 760 days after the receipt of Notice to Proceed. A pre-bid meeting/site showing will be held at **10:00 am (Saipan Time) Friday January 29, 2010** at the Santa Soledad Church, Cha-cha Rd., Kagman. Submitted bids must be received before **2:00 pm (Hawaii Standard Time) Friday February 19, 2010** at: USDA Natural Recourses Conservation Service, P.O. Box 50004, Honolulu, HI 96859-0050. The full bid package and all other information may only be obtained and downloaded at the following website after **January 21, 2010.** (Hawaii Standard Time)

https://www.fbo.gov/index?s=main&mode=list&tab=list

(Search with solicitation number: AG-9251-S-10-0001, select packages tab to view full bid package.)

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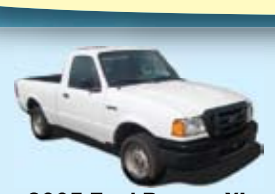
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Three Rota students cited for anti-drug efforts, activities

Three eighth grade students from Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja on Rota were recognized for their untiring efforts in promoting a drug-free, violent-free, and gang-free atmosphere in their school campus.

Vannah Dior Hocog, Angelique Perez, and Randee Jo Barcinas joined thousands of students from the U.S. mainland, Japan, the Philippines, Guam, and Rota as prevention leaders and for promoting positive activities.

Student body president Vannah Dior Hocog heads the famous drug and violence prevention program, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, D.A.R.E., an innovative venture in the effort to fight drugs and violence in communities and schools.

Hocog

Perez

Barcinas

Her role and responsibility is to work alongside DARE officers, coordinators, and volunteers to show fellow students and the community the impact and consequences of drugs and violence.

In addition, Hocog was appointed G.U.T.S. student body president for the SY 2008-2009. She was the first G.U.T.S. student body president for ESFDB. In a short span before taking over DARE, she led her classmates in performing cultural dances for the program and various school fundraising activities.

Angelique Perez is the student body president of Get Up and Try Something, G.U.T.S., program. The G.U.T.S. program is an athletic, creative, fun, and healthy form of activity that poses as a positive alternative to drugs and violence. One of its popular activities is the Jr. NBA/WNBA program. Perez's role and responsibility is to ensure that creative and positive activities are provided to her fellow students. No matter what the grade levels is, the entire student body should always be playing and having fun.

Perez is the only female within the ranks of the Jr. WNBA program to be selected twice as Jr. WNBA player of the year for the school year 2007-2008 and 2008-2009.

Randee Jo Barcinas is the first student body president of the Gang Resistance Education and Training, G.R.E.A.T., program that is newly implemented at Eskelan San Francisco de Borja. ESFDB is possibly the first school in the Northern Mariana Islands with the G.R.E.A.T. program.

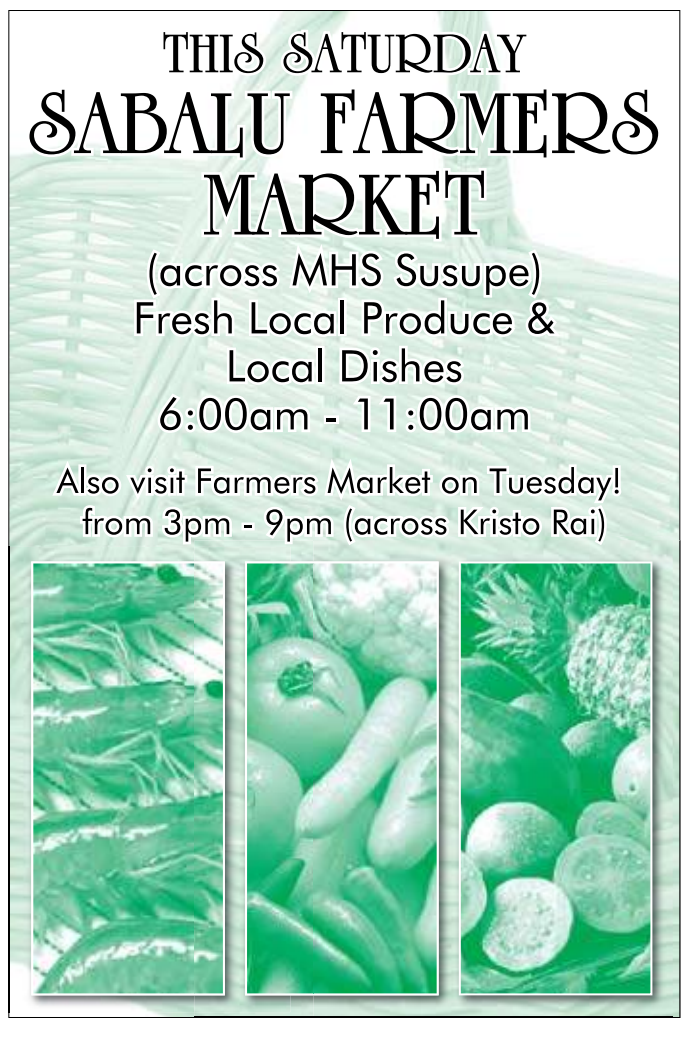
G.R.E.A.T. focuses on providing life skills to students to help them avoid delinquent behavior and violence in solving problems. The G.R.E.A.T. Program offers a continuum of components for students and their families.

Barcinas will also representing ESFDB in the upcoming Spelling Bee competition, to be held sometime in March 2010 in Guam.

These three programs have a common goal: to help young students make positive life choices. The prevention programs, run through the Pacific Regional Training Institute based out of Honolulu, Hawaii, partners with schools and various businesses to teach youngsters how to play a positive role in their school and community by achieving realistic goals, smart decision-making, effective communication, conflict resolution, anger management, and the power of saying no to drugs and violence.

The program is headed by newly appointed PRTI director, SFC Edward Maratita Jr. Maratita, who holds a master's degree in education and law, is awaiting promotion to lieutenant to accommodate his newly appointed position. He is the only certified DARE mentor and educator to certify both law enforcement officers and educators under the banner of DARE America and DARE International. Maratita serves as a part time teacher and school board of director's president of ESFDB.

The PRTI and ESFDB DARE/GUTS/GREAT Student Body Association extend their appreciation to all parents, friends, donors, Barrigada Vice Mayor June U. Blas (Guam), the Guam Fire Department, Paul and Kendra Tanaka (Hawaii), Jeffrey Sai (Hawaii), Captain Jon Takamura (Hawaii), Kristine Koide (Hawaii), Honolulu Federal Credit Union (Hawaii), Bay Breeze Restaurant (Rota), Mrs. Mary Rose Lucero (Rota) and the Rota community for the support given to the students. ***(PR)***



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Pork Hocks	$8.99	Beef Backribs	$6.99
Pork Belly	$10.99	Beef Shortribs	$14.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99	Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99	Quarter Legs	$4.99
Pork Chops	$10.99	Beef Ribeye Steak	$15.99
Beef Stew	$13.99	Flank Steak	$17.99

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Marianas Eye Institute team returns from conference

Thelma Tenorio and Joanne Jones, eye care technicians from Marianas Eye Institute, returned from the Hawaiian Eye Conference held in Kauai, Hawaii last week. The two were sent by Marianas Eye Institute for ongoing education and training.

"It was a great experience," said Tenorio, who has been with Marianas Eye Institute for seven years. "There were about 1,200 people at the conference. Jo and I attended the technician and allied health program where we had a chance to gain new knowledge and polish our skills as eye-care technicians."

Jones said the conference made her want to continue pursuing her own education. "It was my first time to go off-island. Seeing so many young people in the field of medicine inspired me to keep going with my education," she said.

Both Tenorio and Jones completed the first part of their examination as Certified Ophthalmic Assistants while at Marianas Eye Institute.

"The conference was a great update, and it exposed us to new technologies," said Tenorio. "For example, we saw that more things are moving toward 3-D imaging. We also learned a lot about the federal regulations that guide medical practices, and also realized how up-to-date we are at Marianas Eye Institute."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Thelma Tenorio and Joanne Jones, eye care technicians from Marianas Eye Institute, participate in the Hawaiian Eye Conference held in Kauai.

Jones echoed these: "Being around other technicians, and realizing that we have skills and knowledge that many of them don't have helped us see just how well-trained we are at Marianas Eye Institute. We felt lucky that our doctors have given us such in-depth training."

On the new technologies unveiled at the conference, Tenorio said, "We got a sneak peek at some of the new technologies that have come out in the past few months, and got to use them. At Marianas Eye Institute, we're committed to making sure the people of the Commonwealth continue to have access to the highest levels of eye care, so we received training on some of the new technology that will be arriving soon at our clinic. I was able to better understand why *Retina Physician* magazine called Marianas Eye Institute 'one of the best-equipped eye clinics in the Asia-Pacific region.'"

But it wasn't all work and no play. The two technician managed to see a bit of the island. "We did some shopping for our families, spent time with our leaders, and enjoyed the company of some of the new people we met," said Jones.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Marianas Eye Institute eye care technicians Thelma Tenorio and Joanne Jones are joined here by CEO Russ Quinn and Dr. David Khorram, MD.

Also in attendance was Russ Quinn, the CEO of Marianas Eye Institute. "This is the third year we've taken our staff with us to this conference. It's great to see them realize their own talents, and to see just how advanced they are, and our office is, in comparison to many offices in the States," he said.

The Hawaiian Eye Conference is four conferences rolled into one. There is a special educational program for technicians, one for administrators, a comprehensive ophthalmology program for doctors, and a retina conference for doctors dealing with retinal disease. The conference attracts participants from around the world.

"I attended the administrators conference. Much of the focus was on enhancing our practices to serve our patients more efficiently and in a cost effective manner," said Quinn, "but the most fun part of the conference was to spend time bonding with our staff."

Dr. David Khorram, MD rounded out the Marianas Eye Institute team who attended the conference. "It's a great opportunity for me. When I'm on Saipan, there are no other ophthalmologists around. Meetings like the Hawaiian Eye Conference are a chance to get together with colleagues from around the world to spend a week studying the advances in our field. I always learn a few new techniques that help us ensure our patients are getting excellent care," he said.

Dr. Khorram, the director of the Center for Advanced Diabetic Eye Care at Marianas Eye Institute, divided his time between the comprehensive ophthalmology program and the retina program. "This is an ideal conference for me because it deals very heavily with two diseases that I treat a lot at Marianas Eye Institute: cataracts and diabetic eye disease. I spend quite of bit of time throughout the year keeping up with advances in these fields, and writing about them. The conference is a way to study with friends and colleagues in my field. It's great to bring the advances in eye care and ophthalmic surgery back home to the CNMI," he explained.

Dr. Khorram explained that both cataract surgery and diabetic eye disease have undergone remarkable advances in the past years. "From this conference I was able to bring back some new instruments that will both enhance the safety of the cataract surgery we perform, and improve the healing time. I was also able to bring back the newest research in diabetic eye care so that the options we provide to our diabetic patients remain up to date with the scientific research," he said. "Marianas Eye Institute is also becoming active in the field of clinical research, which allows us to bring the most advanced treatment options to our patients. The conference provided an opportunity to engage with other doctors who are co-investigators."

Marianas Eye Institute provides complete eye care for the family, including one-hour glasses, contacts, medical eye care, surgery and laser. In addition to Dr. Khorram, the clinic is staffed by Dr. Mark Robertson, OD. The clinic is located on Beach Road in Garapan. For more information, call 235-9090.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA 10-003)
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 29, 2010

POSITION: **Deputy Administrator** LOCATION: **Saipan**

The Deputy Administrator shall act as the direct assistant to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund ("Fund") Administrator who has full charge and control of the Fund; shall assist the Administrator in the management and control of the Pension program, the defined benefit plan and defined contribution plans, including the Member Home Loan Program; shall directly assist the Administrator in the management of the CNMI's Group Health and Life Insurance Program and the Workers' Compensation Commission.

QUALIFICATIONS: The successful applicant shall have a minimum of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited United States institution in Business Administration, Finance and Accounting, Business Management, Public Administration, or other related fields; and have at least four (4) years of supervisory and management experience. The successful applicant shall also have experience in the administration of public health and welfare plans, including defined benefit and defined contribution plans; mortgage financing; loan servicing; accounting and contract procedures; and working knowledge of database application programs and modern office management techniques. Preference may be given to an applicant with a Master's Degree or other advanced degree in Business Administration, Public Administration, or other related fields, or equivalent relevant work experience in a pension program. Preference will also be given to an applicant who has knowledge of the principles of government budgetary processes, personnel administration, contract procedures, public administration, finance, Workers' Compensation Commission, finance, and investments procedures.

A complete Position Description may be received by sending your request via e-mail to sablanci@nmiretirement.com, or by calling the number below. All application packages must be **received** at the Fund office no later than **5:00 p.m., Friday, February 12, 2010**; applications will be accepted by hand delivery, e-mail, airmail and/or fax machine. **Late or incomplete application packages will not be accepted.** Interested applicants must submit their application, resumé, educational credentials **and** police clearance addressed to the following:

Attention: Mark A. Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. (670) 322-3863
Fax No. (670) 664-8080
E-mail: sablanci@nmiretirement.com

Buenaventura is new Emon Lodge No. 179 master

Eli Buenaventura was elected Worshipful Master of Emon Lodge # 179 for the second time during the fraternity's recent annual election. Buenaventura was the lodge's master in 1999.

He will be installed by Danilo Angeles, Past Grand Master, this Saturday at the Taga Room of the Saipan World Resort during the 20th annual installation of elected and appointed officers of the lodge.

Buenaventura

Buenaventura, who is the general manager of Calvo's Insurance, has been a member of Emon Lodge No. 179 since 1993, two years after the lodge was moved from Kwajelein to Saipan. He is also a tennis player and writer and two-time member of the CNMI tennis team to the Micronesian Games.

Elected officers with Buenaventura for 2010-2011 are: Jess Delos Santos, Senior Warden; Boy Ching, Junior Warden, Isagani Benoza, Secretary; Victor Brana, Treasurer; and Nono Bostre, Auditor. Appointed officers are: Jeffrey Warfield Sr., Senior Deacon; Edwin Arenas, Junior Deacon; Pepe Crisostomo, Chaplain; Bong Malasarte, Senior Steward; Bong Ayuman II, Junior Steward; Marshall, Celso Gianchand; Edward Cornett, Orator; Romy Cayetano, Lecturer; Armando Neglerio, Organist; Sonny Pestanas, Almoner; and Gener Garcia, Tyler.

Emon Lodge No. 179 is under the jurisdiction of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. ***(PR)***

Grand Master Lo Suy to keynote installation

Grand Master of Masons, Peter U. Lim Lo Suy, will be the guest speaker of Emon Lodge No. 179's 20th installation ceremony to be held at Royal Taga Room of the Saipan World Resort this weekend.

Grand Master Lo Suy is attending Guam and Saipan installation ceremonies as part of his Masonic district activities. He is accompanied by his wife Doris, Past Grand Master Danilo Angles, and Grand Lodge Senior Grand Lecturer Robert Asuncion.

Emon Lodge No. 179 is under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippines. ***(PR)***

WE ACCEPT WIC PROGRAM STARTING OCT. 1, 2009

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Whole Chicken LIMIT 1 CASE 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31) $32.99 $33.99

Young Spare Ribs 10 LBS. $15.99

Pork Spareribs BBQ Adobo Cut 20 LBS. $14.99

Beef Back Spare Ribs 20 LBS. $22.99

Turkey Tail 20 lbs. 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31) $14.99 $15.99

Mackerel PACIFIC 22.4 LBS. $20.99 PIKE 22.07 LBS. $23.99

Chorizos 4 lbs. 64 oz. $24.99

SEOK SU Dynamic Fresh 500ml. x 20 $5.99 $4.99 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31)

GUSTO SMOKE HAM $1.99 /POUND

NORBEST YOUNG TURKEY $1.59 /POUND

Jasmine Lotus Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 1) $24.99

Diamond G Calrose Rice 50 LBS. (LIMIT 2) $31.99 $29.99 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31)

Marukiyo Rice Cracker 100pcs. $89.99 /CASE

Tasters Choice Pouch 8 oz. $6.99

FROZEN MEAT • SEAFOOD • PRODUCE • GROCERIES

Gusto Ham 10 lbs. $15.99 Bar-S Ham 10 lbs. $16.99

Miller Sausage 5 lbs. $14.95

Chamorro Sausage Reg/Hot 1 lb. $4.49

Bar-S Bacon 1 lb. $2.49

Bar-S Hotdog 1 lb. $1.09

West Bay Crabmeat Imitation 16 oz. $1.99

Ground Beef 5 LBS. $9.99 10 LBS. $16.99

Bar-S Hotlinks 24 oz. $3.99

Mackarel Family Bag $5.99

Peeled Shrimp SC Brand 1 lb. $2.99

Seafood Mix Log Feng Brand 1 lb. $2.59

Blue Crab Section Per Box $8.95

Vega Shrimp 1 lb. $4.99

Imperial Choice Green Mussels 2 lbs. $4.99

Chicken Wings 3 lbs. $5.99 /PACK 5.5 lbs. $11.99 /PACK

Milk Fish $1.39 /LB

Tilapia $0.99¢ /LB

U.S. Extra Large Eggs Dozen $1.99 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31) $2.29

Onion 79¢ /LB

Garlic per bundle 89¢

Spam 12 oz. LIMIT 6 ALL FLAVORS $2.29

Black Label Luncheon Meat 12 oz. (Limit 6) $1.39

Libby's & Armour Vienna Sausage 5 oz. 69¢

Beach Cliff Sardines 3.75 oz. 89¢

Ox & Palm Corned Beef 11.5 oz. LIMIT 6 $2.29

Hormel Mary Kitchen Corned Beef Hash 15 oz. $1.99

Hormel Chili No Beans 15 oz. $1.79

DM Beef Stew 15 oz. $1.79

Master A1 Tuna 7 oz. Limit 6 99¢

3 Diamond Tuna $1.19

Sun Flower Mackarel 15 oz. $1.59

Campbells Chicken Noodle Soup 10.7 oz. 99¢

Cream of Mushroom 10 3/4 oz. $1.09

Del Monte Whole Kernel Corn 89¢

Carnation Evaporated 12 oz. $1.19

Crisco All Vegetable Shortening 3 lbs. $4.99

Dragon Veg. Oil 1 Gal. $6.99

Vegetable Oil 5 Gal. LIMIT 1 $23.99

Garden Fresco Vegetable Oil 1 Gal. $7.99

Heavenly Chef White Vinegar $2.99

Crisco Pure Corn 64 oz. $7.99

Vlasic Dill Pickles (Spears) 1 Gal. $5.99

Kikkoman 1.6 L. $3.99

Lemon Powder 5.29 oz. $4.99

Gold Medal Flour 5 lbs. Limit 2 pcs. $2.99

Maseca 4.4 lbs. Limit 1 pc. $4.99

Coco Mackerel 15 oz. $1.29

Sugar 2 kg. $1.89

Morton Iodized Salt 26 oz. 69¢

Folgers Classic Roast 39 oz. $10.99

Coffee-Mate Creamer 50 oz. $7.99

Excellent Bihon 99¢

Kraft Cool Whip 8 OZ. $1.99 16 OZ. $3.50

Philadelphia Original Creame Cheese $2.99

Mazwell House 34.5 oz. $9.99

Argo Corn Starch Limit 3 pcs. 99¢

Nong Shim Bowl Noodle $6.99

Country Time Lemonade 2.33 Kg. $7.99

Tang 22 qts. $6.99

Lipton Ice Tea 4 oz. $6.99

Kool Aid 2.33 Kg. $7.99

Sunkist 1 Case Warm Only $5.99

Whole Chicken Can 50 oz. $5.99

Real Fresh Milk (Regular only) $20.99 /CASE 236 ml. $16.99

Enfamil LIPIL Lipil 25.7 oz. $29.99

Enfamil Lipil with Iron 8 oz by 16 cans $41.99 per case

Coke Regular 24/Case Warm Only $12.99

Shasta Drinks Dr. Pepper 12oz (warm or cold) $9.99

Ritz Drink All Flavor (warm only) $12.99

Pepsi 330ml Warm Only $13.99 /CASE All Flavors

Budweiser/Budlight 24/Case Warm Only $26.99 $25.99 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31)

Korean Butane Gas LIMIT 1 Case 3 days only (01/29 - 01/31) $19.99 /CASE

Foam Cups 51 cnts. $1.99

Bounty Basic 15 ROLLS $15.99 8 ROLLS $8.99

Bounty 15 Rolls $19.99

Foam Plates 125 ct. $7.99

Drypers Mega ALL SIZE $14.99

Spoon & Fork No Brand Name 100 cnts. $1.29

Horse Shampoo 1 qrt. 2 FOR $3.00

Bottled White Candle 12 pcs/case $13.99 /CASE

Drypers (All Size) Mega Pack $14.99

Luvs Big Pack (All Size) $19.99

Charmin Basis 24 big rolls = 48 regular rolls $14.99

Diamond Foil 200 Sq. Ft. $6.99

FAMILY BAG SPECIAL

BEEF SHANK	$10.95	BEEF BACK RIBS	$7.95
FLANK STEAK	$16.95	BEEF OXTAIL	$16.95
PORK ADOBO	$10.95	BEEF STEW	$12.95
PORK CHOP	$11.95	RIBEYE STEAK	$17.95
PORK BELLY	$11.95	BEEF TOP ROUND STEAK	$14.95
STEWING CHICKEN	$6.95	SMOKED HAM STEAK	$12.95
TURKEY TAIL (FAMILY BAG)	$4.99	PORK BUTT	$10.95
U.S. CHOICE BEEF SHORTRIBS	$13.99		

NON-FOOD

SOFT 'N GENTLE (12 ROLLS)	$4.99
CHARMIN (24 ROLLS)	$8.99
GAIN POWDER (120 LOADS)	$19.95
GAIN LIQUID (300 OZ.)	$16.95
JOY ULTRA LEMON DISHWASHING LIQUID (90 OZ.)	$6.99
SUAVE SHAMPOO AND CONDITIONER (15 OZ.)	2 FOR $3.00
PLATINUM NAPKIN (360 CTS)	$3.99

Business

Apple introduces new $499 iPad tablet computer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Apple CEO Steve Jobs unveiled the company's much-anticipated iPad tablet computer Wednesday, calling it a new third category of mobile device that is neither smart phone nor laptop, but something in between.

The iPad will start at $499, a price tag far below the $1,000 that some analysts were expecting. But Apple must still persuade recession-weary consumers who already have other devices to open their wallets yet again. Apple plans to begin selling the iPad in two months.

Jobs said the device would be useful for reading books, playing games or watching video, describing it as "so much more intimate than a laptop and so much more capable than a smart phone."

The half-inch-thick iPad is larger than the company's popular iPhone but similar in design. It weighs 1.5 pounds and has a touch screen that is 9.7 inches diagonally. It comes with 16, 32 or 64 gigabytes of flash memory storage, and has Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity built in.

Jobs said the device has a battery that lasts 10 hours and can sit for a month on standby without needing a charge.

Raven Zachary, a contributing analyst with a mobile research agency called The 451 Group, considered the iPad a laptop replacement, especially because Apple is also selling a dock with a built-in keyboard.

But Forrester Research analyst James McQuivey said he does not believe the iPad offered enough additional features for consumers to justify buying yet another gadget, or to call it a new category of device.

In an e-mail, he criticized its lack of social features, such as ways to share photos and home video and recommend books.

Sitting on stage in a cozy leather chair, Jobs demonstrated how the iPad is used for surfing the Web with Apple's Safari browser. The CEO typed an e-mail using an on-screen keyboard and flipped through photo albums by flicking his finger across the screen.

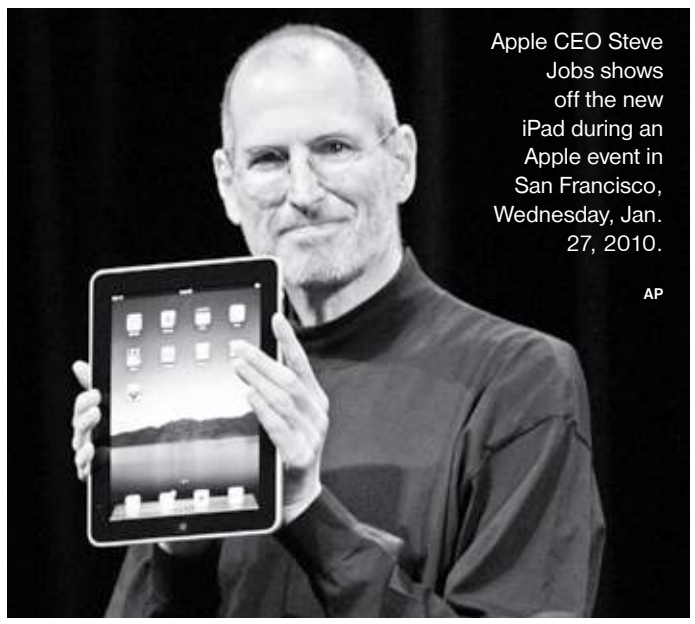
He also showed off a new electronic book store and a book-reading interface that emulates the look of a paper book. That puts the iPad in competition with Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle and e-book store.

Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies Inc. called the iPad a great multipurpose mobile device—and the first tablet with a chance of success with consumers.

But Bajarin said Jobs' presentation only touched the tip of what the iPad could do for newspapers, magazines and book publishers, three industries struggling in the transition to the digital age.

A new newspaper reader program from The New York Times and a game from Electronic Arts Inc. were demonstrated during the event. The iBookstore launched with titles from Penguin, Simon & Schuster, HarperCollins, Hachette Book Group and Macmillan, and will open up to other publishing houses.

Carolyn Reidy, chief executive of Simon & Schuster, called the iPad a "terrific device" that gives readers the ability to adjust the typeface and turn pages by touching a finger to the screen, as opposed to pushing a button, as the Kindle requires.



Apple CEO Steve Jobs shows off the new iPad during an Apple event in San Francisco, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010.

AP

Dealers swamped by worried Toyota drivers

NEW YORK (AP)—Toyota dealers across the country were swamped with calls Wednesday from concerned drivers but had few answers a day after the company announced it would stop selling and building eight models because of faulty gas pedals.

Toyota insisted the problem—sudden, uncontrolled acceleration—was "rare and infrequent" and said dealers should deal with customers "on a case-by-case basis." But drivers of Toyotas and those who share the road with them were left with uncertainty.

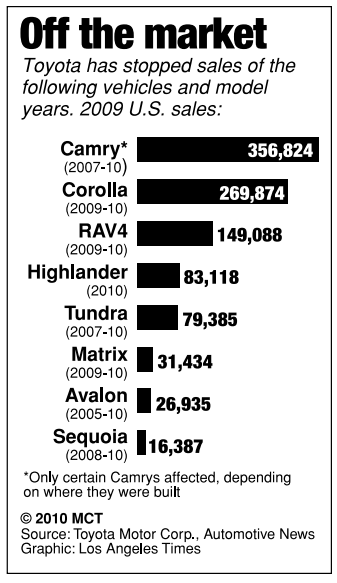
In an unprecedented move, the company said late Tuesday it would halt sales for the eight models—which make up more than half of Toyota's U.S. sales volume—to fix the gas pedals. Last week, Toyota issued a recall for the same eight models, affecting 2.3 million vehicles.

A private firm said it had identified 275 crashes and 18 deaths because of sudden, uncontrollable acceleration in Toyotas since 1999.

In North Palm Beach, Fla., Clare Roden showed up at a Toyota dealership worried about the 2010 Camry she purchased recently. She was relieved when she was told her accelerator was not a problem part.

"I didn't want to get out on I-95 because people are not very safe drivers there anyway," Roden said as she waited in the lobby while mechanics checked her car. "I wanted to get it down here as soon as possible."

The dealership owner, Earl Stewart, said about half his cars are affected by the recall, a huge hit to business. He said customers had been flocking in with concerns about the accelerator on all of the models. He sent some home with loaners.


Off the market
Toyota has stopped sales of the following vehicles and model years. 2009 U.S. sales:
Camry* (2007-10) 356,824
Corolla (2009-10) 269,874
RAV4 (2009-10) 149,088
Highlander (2010) 83,118
Tundra (2007-10) 79,385
Matrix (2009-10) 31,434
Avalon (2005-10) 26,935
Sequoia (2008-10) 16,387
*Only certain Camrys affected, depending on where they were built
© 2010 MCT
Source: Toyota Motor Corp., Automotive News
Graphic: Los Angeles Times

"They're very frightened," he said. "Many people are concerned their accelerator pedal is going to stick and they're going to be involved in an accident."

At Walser Toyota in Bloomington, Minn., owner Doug Sprinthall took calls all day Wednesday from people wanting to know if cars they once thought were dependable were affected by the freeze. He didn't have much to tell them.

"It's hurry up and wait," he said. "We've got a lot of faith in Toyota. They're a good company. These things are not unheard of. ... What's different about this is it's just so many vehicles."

White House to dole out $8 billion in rail grants

WASHINGTON (AP)—High-speed rail projects in California, Florida and Illinois are among the big winners of $8 billion in grants to be announced Thursday by the White House—the start of what some Democrats tout as a national rail-building program that could rival the interstate highways begun in the Eisenhower era.

Thirteen rail corridors in 31 states received funds. The White House, which supplied a list of the grants to reporters late Wednesday, billed the program as "high-speed rail," but only the California project calls for trains with maximum speeds exceeding the 200 mph achieved by some trains in Europe and Asia.

Some of the money will go toward trains with top speeds of 110 mph, while others—such as the $400 million allotted to Ohio to connect Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Cincinnati by rail—will go toward trains traveling no faster than 79 mph.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

China says no limits on use of Google's Android

BEIJING (AP)—China tried Wednesday to assure mobile phone companies using Google's Android operating system that they won't be hurt by a dispute over Web censorship, saying the technology will be allowed if it complies with regulations. Google Inc. postponed the launch of its own smart phone in China following its Jan. 12 announcement that it will no longer censor search results. Others also are developing Android-based phones and could be hurt if Beijing tries to penalize Google by barring its use. "As long as it fulfills Chinese laws and regulations and has good communication with telecom operators, I think its application should not have restrictions," said Zhu Hongren, a spokeman for the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology, at a regular news briefing when asked whether Beijing would permit use of Android.

JetBlue hopes for few blips in reservation switch

NEW YORK (AP)—Traveling on JetBlue this weekend could get messy. The airline is transferring to a new reservation system. Passengers will be unable to check flight status, check in at jetblue.com or make changes to an existing itinerary online for 24 hours beginning at noon on Friday. They also won't be able to book travel at all. In addition to those inconveniences, JetBlue is warnings of longer lines at airports and is urging passengers to arrive early. For JetBlue, the biggest concern is ensuring a smooth transition and avoiding any customer service nightmare.

Oil prices slide to settle under $74

Oil prices continued their two-week slide on Wednesday after a government report showed demand for crude products dropped even further from the weak levels of a year ago when the recession's grip on the economy was strongest. Benchmark crude for March delivery fell $1.04 to settle at $73.67 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. That's the lowest settlement price since Dec. 14, when crude dipped to $73.46. Wholesale prices for natural gas, heating oil and gasoline also tumbled. Oil prices initially moved slightly higher after the Energy Information Administration reported a big decline in crude inventories last week. But once traders realized that foggy weather and high seas in the Gulf of Mexico, as well as an accident at a southeast Texas port, probably slowed deliveries and accounted for the drop, the focus turned to the lack of demand. ***(AP)***

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950

FINAL NOTICE OF DENIALS OF APPLICATIONS
2009 APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS
January 22, 2010, first notice
January 29, 2010, second notice

PARTIES TO APPLICATIONS TO EMPLOY FOREIGN WORKERS FILED IN 2009 (INCLUDING BOTH EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS):

Each of the applications to employ foreign workers filed at any time during calendar year 2009 has either been granted or denied by the Labor Processing Section of the Department of Labor. If your application has not been granted, it has been denied. In each case, this is a final action by the Department of Labor. All claims, including all appeals and all claims for eligibility for transfer, if not previously granted, have been denied. Any party who has not been served personally or by mail with the denial is now, as of the publication of this notice, served with the denial. An employer or worker served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the denial from the Labor Processing Section. An employer or worker affected by a denial has until February 16, 2010 to appeal the denial. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or otherwise on a party, and the time within which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

Nation

Embattled Obama declares in speech, 'I don't quit'

ACROSS THE NATION

Poll: Californians say state is on wrong course

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Californians are in a dour mood, with three-quarters of adults believing the state is on the wrong course, according to a poll released Wednesday by the Public Policy Institute of California. Residents also have little faith that Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and lawmakers can work together to solve the state's fiscal problems, but would favor a tax increase if the money was targeted for schools. "Residents have deep concerns about the economy and their own budgets, and they don't see how California's leaders will help guide the state through these difficult times," said Mark Baldassare, president of the San Francisco-based think tank.

Man accused of shooting abortion doctor to testify

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—Defense attorneys have "a formidable and daunting task" ahead if the man who has confessed to killing a Kansas abortion provider is hoping for a chance at a lesser sentence by arguing he sincerely believed his actions were necessary to save unborn children, a judge said Wednesday. Scott Roeder will take the witness stand to testify on his own behalf, attorney Steve Osburn told The Associated Press in the wake of a heated hearing about which defense evidence jurors will be allowed to hear. Osburn said the defense expects to present its case in a single day Thursday.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Declaring "I don't quit,'" President Barack Obama fought to recharge his embattled presidency with a State of the Union vow to get jobless millions back to work and to stand on the side of Americans angry at Wall Street greed and Washington bickering. Defiant despite stinging setbacks, he said he would fight on for ambitious overhauls of health care, energy and education.

"Change has not come fast enough," Obama acknowledged Wednesday night before a politician-packed House chamber and a TV audience of millions. "As hard as it may be, as uncomfortable and contentious as the debates may be, it's time to get serious about fixing the problems that are hampering our growth."

Obama looked to change the conversation from how his presidency is stalling—over the messy health care debate, a limping economy and the missteps that led to Christmas Day's barely averted terrorist disaster—to how he is seizing the reins. He spoke to a nation gloomy over double-digit unemployment and federal deficits soaring to a record $1.4 trillion, and to fellow Democrats dispirited about the fallen standing of a president they hoped would carry them through this fall's midterm elections.

With State of the Union messages traditionally delivered at the end of January, Obama had one of the presidency's biggest platforms just a week after Republicans scored an upset takeover of a Senate seat in Massachusetts, prompting hand-wringing over his leadership. With the turnover erasing Democrats' Senate supermajority needed to pass most legislation, it also put a cloud over health care and the rest of Obama's agenda.

A chief demand was for lawmakers to press forward with his prized health care overhaul, which is in severe danger in Congress. "Do not walk away from reform," he implored. "Not now. Not when we are so close."

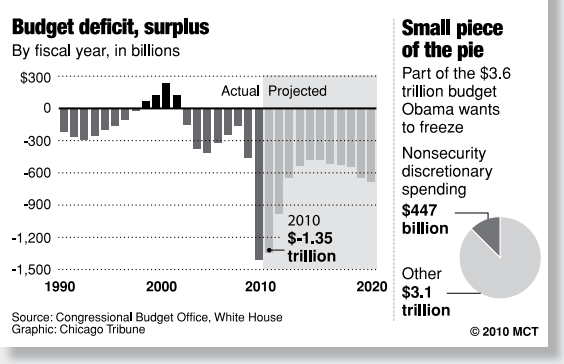
Republicans applauded the president when he entered the chamber, and even craned their necks and welcomed Michelle Obama when she took her seat. But the warm feelings of bipartisanship disappeared early.

AP

President Barack Obama delivers his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010.

Huge deficit shrinks a bit

New estimate shows a small decrease in the federal budget deficit. To further reduce the deficit, President Barack Obama is expected to announce a three-year freeze on nonsecurity discretionary spending.



Source: Congressional Budget Office, White House
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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Republicans say nation can't afford Dem policies

WASHINGTON (AP)—The nation cannot afford the spending Democrats have enacted or the tax increases they propose, Virginia Gov. Bob McDonnell said Wednesday in the Republican response to the State of the Union address.

McDonnell, in a transcript of his speech released in advance, said Democratic policies are resulting in an unsustainable level of debt. He said Americans want affordable health care, but they don't want the government to run it.

"Today, the federal government is simply trying to do too much," McDonnell said in prepared remarks. "In the past year, over 3 million Americans have lost their jobs, yet the Democratic Congress continues deficit spending, adding to the bureaucracy, and increasing the national debt on our children and grandchildren."

McDonnell said that all Americans want affordable, high-quality health care. But, he added, "Most Americans do not want to turn over the best medical care system in the world to the federal government."

McDonnell is to deliver the Republican response after President Barack Obama's speech Wednesday evening. National GOP leaders picked McDonnell after he was elected in a rout last fall in a state Obama and the Democrats swept in 2008.

COMMONWEALTH
ZONING BOARD

DEADLINE EXTENSION TO THE REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

To Participate in Zoning Office's Island-Wide Junk Car Removal & Recycling Program

The Zoning Office has extended the deadline to receive Expressions of Interest for the removal of junk vehicles by qualified towing and recycling operations. Responding companies must be willing to pick up any and all junk vehicles identified and processed by the Zoning Office at no charge to the CNMI government. It is estimated that there are as many as 18,000 junk vehicles on the island of Saipan.

All companies wishing to register for this program must have a valid recycling permit from the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality.

Please include in your Expression of Interest a description of your firm's operations, permits and number of vehicles that can be taken per month. Interested companies need to be willing to take large and small vehicles in any condition.

The Zoning Office will take every qualified company that submits an Expression of Interest, but reserves the right not to select any of the responding companies for the program. The Zoning Office will publish the approved list of the selected company or companies and advise the public of the start of the program. The Zoning Office will provide an equal number of vehicles to each approved company on a rotating schedule to be determined.

Submissions should be clearly marked "Expression of Interest – Junk Car Removal"

Format of submission

- On 8 1/2" x 11" on company letterhead
- One electronic file version in PDF, MS Word or MS PowerPoint format, by email to staff@zoning.gov.mp (use subject line: "Junk Vehicle Program")

Where and when to submit and questions

Address your questions, the Expression of Interest and other correspondence to:

Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan
US Mail: Zoning Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp

Attn: Junk Vehicle Program.

Proposals must be received at the Zoning Office by 3:00 pm, Friday, February 19th , 2010.

/s/ Herminia M. Fusco, Chair

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

EMERGENCY REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
Construction of a Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan
CUC - RFP 10 - 015

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors or firms for the Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. CUC had issued a prior bid (CUC IFB – 10 – 009), which was cancelled. The scope involves construction of a secondary containment with adequate roofing, based on the guidelines provided in the documents. The roofing structure and footing design compliant to the local codes and regulations and installation has now been made a part of the contractor's scope in order to elicit competitive proposals.

A mandatory site visit and pre-proposal meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 10, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at CUC Power Plant 1 Administration Building, Lower Base, Saipan, to ensure that the contractors are fully aware of the work involved and familiarize themselves with the site conditions. All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the plant site conditions in the course of the contractor's preparation of a proposal or performance of work under the contract. A proposal guarantee of fifteen percent (15%) of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or security bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner, Department of Commerce, CNMI. A performance and payment bond of one hundred percent (100%) each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful proposer and prior to the issuance of Notice to Proceed.

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC RFP 10 – 015 – Construction of a New Secondary Containment at Power Plant 1, Saipan" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Third Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P. 0. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 a.m., local time, Thursday, February 18, 2010**. Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most responsive to the solicitation. The contractor shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

The RFP package will be e-mailed upon request to all interested proposers by the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working days, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., local time, **until February 10, 2010**. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No. 2 (SO 2).

All requests/clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **4:00 p.m., local time, Friday, February 12, 2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, Procurement & Supply Manager, via email at msablan@cucgov.net and Mr. Venugopal Prabhakara, Power Generation Managing Engineer, via email at venu@cucgov.net, with a copy to Becky Grimes at beckyg@cucgov.net for prompt response.

Selection procedure shall be in compliance with CUC's Procurement Regulations. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any-proposal if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI government.

/s/ TIMOTHY CONNOR	/s/ ABE UTU MALAE	/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Legal Counsel	Assistant Executive Director for Operation	Executive Director
Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 27, 2010	Date: January 28, 2010

Asia

NKorea, SKorea exchange fire near disputed border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea fired artillery and South Korea responded with warning shots along their disputed western sea border Wednesday, but there were no immediate reports of casualties and the North later said its barrage was part of a continuing military drill.

North Korea fired about 30 artillery rounds into the sea from its coast and the South immediately responded by firing 100 warning shots from a marine base on an island near the sea border, an officer at the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Seoul said.

He said no casualties or damage were immediately reported, and that the North's artillery fire landed in its own waters while the South fired into the air. The officer spoke on condition of anonymity because of department policy.

Later Wednesday, North Korea issued a statement saying it had fired artillery off its coast as part of an annual military drill and would continue to do so.

Such drills "will go on in the same waters in the future," the General Staff of the (North) Korean People's Army said in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency.

The exchange of fire came two days after the North designated two no-sail zones in the area, including some South Korean-held waters, through March 29.

South Korea's Defense Ministry sent the North's military a message expressing serious concern about the firing and saying it fostered "unnecessary tension" between the two sides.

It also urged the North to retract the no-sail zones, calling them a "grave provocation" and a violation of the Korean War armistice.

The western sea border—drawn by the American-led U.N. Command at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War—is a constant source of tension between the two Koreas, with the North insisting the line be moved further south.

Navy ships of the two Koreas fought a brief gunbattle in November that left one North Korean sailor dead and three others wounded. They engaged in similar bloody skirmishes in 1999 and 2002.

A woman looks at replicas of South Korean soldiers at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. AP

Witness links clan chief to Philippine massacre

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A powerful clan chief and his son plotted a massacre in the southern Philippines that killed 57 rivals and journalists, ordering local officials to hire gunmen and recruiting militiamen for the slayings, a court heard Wednesday. Muhammad Sangki, a local town councilor, testified that the son of the Ampatuan clan's patriarch led dozens of men in blocking the victims' convoy as they traveled to register the gubernatorial candidacy of a clan rival then tried to identify each of them before they were shot Nov. 23.

The massacre was the worst election-related violence in Philippines history. It came in the run-up to national polls due in May, highlighting the violent sway of warlords in the Southeast Asian nation's volatile democracy. More than 30 journalists and their staff were among those killed, the deadliest single attack on media workers in the world.

It drew international condemnation and prompted President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo to declare martial law for a week in southern Maguindanao province and crack down on the powerful Ampatuan clan—once her key political ally—and its private army.

Sangki told the heavily guarded court at the national police headquarters that a town official told him that Andal Ampatuan Jr.'s father, a former Maguindanao governor, ordered several mayors to hire gunmen. Another town official told him the plan was to block the a convoy of supporters of a rival clan to stop Esmael Mangudadatu from registering as a candidate for governor in the provincial capital.

At a Nov. 20 meeting, Sangki said he was given 15,000 pesos ($326) by Ampatuan Jr. to buy food for 20 gunmen he hired for the attack. He said the province's police chief and about 15 to 20 armed men were present at the meeting.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Malaysia: Suspects linked to accused plane bomber

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Malaysia is holding 10 terror suspects with alleged ties to a Nigerian suspected in last month's attempted bombing of a U.S. airliner, a news report said Thursday. Malaysia's home minister announced the arrests Wednesday, saying they were mainly foreigners linked to an international terrorist network. They include four men from Syria, two from Nigeria and one each from Yemen and Jordan, said Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, head of a rights group that assists people detained under Malaysia's Internal Security Act, which allows indefinite detention without trial.

NKorea says American man detained at China border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korea said Thursday that it has detained an American man for trespassing on its border with China, the second arrest of a U.S. citizen reported by the communist regime in the past several weeks. The man was detained Monday and is now under investigation, the North's official Korean Central News Agency said in a brief dispatch. He was not identified by name and the report provided no further details. The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said Thursday that it did not know of the case. North Korea said late last month that it was holding another U.S. citizen for "illegally entering" the country through the North Korea-China border.

RP military plane crash kills 8

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A military plane crashed Thursday into a residential area in the southern Philippines, killing a senior air force commander and seven other people aboard, officials said. There were no immediate reports of casualties on the ground in Cotabato city, said national police spokesman Chief Superintendent Leonardo Espina. The twin-prop Nomad aircraft crashed shortly after taking off and burst into flames, setting fire to two houses that it had hit, regional military commander Lt. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer said. Television footage showed one charred body among the flaming debris as people tried to help firemen put out the blaze, some dousing the fire with garden hoses.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO VOLUNTARY DISSOLVE A CORPORATION

Notice is hereby given that a Notice of Intent to dissolve HADI Corporation, a corporation which is registered in Saipan, has been delivered to the Registrar of Corporations.

SAIPAN COOL WATER INC.
P.O. Box 504466 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 235-2665 (cool) • 235-0893

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

January 20, 2010

To all Concern,

This is to inform the general public that effective December 02, 2009 Mr. Carlos A. Ballesteros with LIIDS No. 104819 is no longer an affiliate of Saipan Cool Water. Therefore, any transaction and or agreement entered into with Mr. Ballesteros, will not be entertained by Saipan Cool Water and Ice Inc. and will not be responsible or liable on the said transaction.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero
Manager, Saipan Cool Water & Ice Inc.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

3rd NOTICE OF SALE
UNDER POWER OF SALE
IN DEED OF TRUST

Anthony P. Sonoda and Lorraine Anne C. Sonoda now known as Lorraine Anne T. Cabrera, (collectively "Trustor"), on or about March 11, 2002 gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, formerly known as the Mariana Island Housing Authority ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the Department of Veterans Affairs, United States of America, ("VA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on March 11, 2002 under Document No. 02-585 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the VA.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

LOT NO. 019 I 30, CONTAINING AN AREA OF 948 SQUARE METERS, MORE OR LESS, AS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN ON THE SURVEY PLAT OF SUBDIVISION OF LOT 019 I 04, DLS CHECK NO. 019 I 02, THE ORIGINAL OF WHICH WAS FILED WITH THE COMMONWEALTH RECORDER'S OFFICE, AS FILE NO. 91-2320, ON MAY 13, 1991

The Trustor has defaulted on payment on the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default Trustee issued its Notice of Default on January 21, 2009. More than thirty days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2CMC SS 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, Trustee will, on **Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m., at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation's office in Garapan, Saipan** under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **Eighty-Eight Thousand Thirty and 00/100 ($88,030.00)**, the total amount due under the VA loan.

A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within 72 hours of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within 72 hours will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC. The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property of the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 15th day of January, 2010.

BY: /S/ Joshua T. Sasamoto
Corporate Director NMHC

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PERSONAL FINANCE CENTER, Plaintiff, -v-. OSCAR M. MASGA and MARIA B. MASGA, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 08-0440 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on October 8, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot 010 K 230, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K01, the original of which was recorded August 19, 1987, as Document No. 87-2909, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan; and

Tract No. 22698-2 (formerly part of original Tract No. 22697, H-84), situated in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2106/87, the original of which was recorded on June 23, 1987, as Document No. 87-2674 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 19,2010, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 20th day of January 2010:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CITY TRUST BACK, Plaintiff, -v-. ALEINA D. HOFSHNEIDER, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER, and LOUISE C. HOFSCHNEIDER, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0505 — SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFFENDANTS, ALVIN U. HOFSCHNEIDER AND LOUISE C. HOFSCNEIDER:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

Dated, this 23rd day of January, 2010.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. RICARDO R. DADO and DELIA S. DADO, Defendants. — Civil Action No. 09-0466-CV — AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT RICARDO R. DADO :

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the Complaint for Foreclosure by Plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon Robert Tenorio Torres, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950; and in case of failure to do so, a default may be rendered against you according to the demand of the Complaint for Foreclosure, which have been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So ORDERED this 17th day of December, 2009.

/s/Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

2 weeks after Haiti quake, food aid falls short

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Whether locked up in warehouses or stolen by thugs from people's hands, food from the world's aid agencies still isn't getting to enough hungry Haitians, leaving the strongest and fittest with the most.

The newly homeless of the rubble-strewn Bizoton slum say they haven't gotten food, water or help with shelter in the two weeks since the earthquake.

"If it rains now, that's it," Wilson St. Ellis, 50, a father of eight, said Wednesday amid plastic sheets stretched here and there as flimsy shields against the elements.

■ ■ ■

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—French rescuers pulled a teenage girl—very dehydrated, with a broken left leg and moments from death—from the rubble of a home near the destroyed St. Gerard University on Wednesday, a stunning recovery 15 days after an earthquake devastated the city.

Darlene Etienne was rushed to a French military field hospital and then to the French military hospital ship Sirroco, groaning through an oxygen mask with her eyes open in a lost stare. "She's alive!" said paramedic Paul Francois-Valette, who accompanied her into the hospital.

Authorities say it is rare for anyone to survive more than 72 hours without water, little alone more than two weeks. But Etienne may have had some access to water from a bathroom of the collapsed home, and rescuers said she mumbled something about having a little Coca-Cola with her in the rubble.

AP: Haiti govt gets 1 penny of US quake aid dollar

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Less than a penny of each dollar the U.S. is spending on earthquake relief in Haiti is going in the form of cash to the Haitian government, according to an Associated Press review of relief efforts.

Two weeks after President Obama announced an initial $100 million for Haiti earthquake relief, U.S. government spending on the disaster has nearly quadrupled to $379 million, the U.S. Agency for International Development announced Wednesday. That's about $1.25 each from everyone in the United States.

Each American dollar roughly breaks down like this: 42 cents for disaster assistance, 33 cents for U.S. military aid, nine cents for food, nine cents to transport the food, five cents for paying Haitian survivors for recovery efforts, just less than one cent to the Haitian government, and about half a cent to the Dominican Republic.

The U.S. government money is part of close to $2 billion in relief aid flowing into Haiti—almost all of it managed by organizations other than the Haitian government, which has been struggling to re-establish its authority since the quake. On Wednesday, a defensive President Rene Preval acknowledged his country's reputation, but said aid money isn't lining the pockets of government officials.

"There's a perception of corruption, but I would like to tell the Haitian people that the Haitian government has not seen one penny of all the money that has been raised—millions are being made on the right, millions on the left, it's all going to the NGOs (nongovernmental organizations)" Preval said, speaking in Creole at a news conference.

Relief experts say it would be a mistake to send too much direct cash to the Haitian government, which was already unstable before the quake and routinely included on lists of the world's most corrupt countries.

"I really believe Americans are the most generous people who ever lived, but they want accountability," said Timothy R. Knight, a former US AID assistant director who spent 25 years distributing disaster aid. "In this situation they're being very deliberate not to just throw money at the situation but to analyze based on a clear assessment and make sure that money goes to the best place possible."

■ ■ ■

Where donated rice, beans or ready-to-eat meals are being distributed, crowds quickly become unruly, with young men pushing ahead and grabbing food bags from women and the weak. U.N. peacekeepers fire pepper spray and Haitian police swing sticks to restore control.

"These people are just hungry," U.N. spokesman Vincenzo Pugliese said of the thousands thronging food distribution points, where he said U.N. peacekeepers were reinforcing security.

Food remains scarce for many of the neediest survivors despite the efforts of the United Nations, the U.S. military and dozens of international aid groups. Relief experts say the scale of this disaster and Haiti's poor infrastructure are presenting unprecedented challenges, but Haitian leaders complain coordination has been poor.

"Many mistakes have to be rectified in order to bring help to the people who need it," President Rene Preval complained to reporters.

In a bid to improve food distribution, representatives of the U.N., the U.S., the Haitian government and private aid groups met Wednesday, and afterward Donal Reilly of Catholic Relief Services said they decided to divide Port-au-Prince into zones, designating a major aid agency to be responsible for delivering U.N. food to each sector.

Meanwhile, in a stunning development so long after the 7.0-magnitude tremor collapsed thousands of buildings in Port-au-Prince and beyond, French rescuers pulled a 17-year-old girl Wednesday from the rubble of a home near the destroyed St. Gerard University.

WORLD BRIEFS

Ex-Honduran leader leaves for exile, vows return

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Former Honduran President Manuel Zelaya left his refuge in the Brazilian Embassy and flew into exile Wednesday, ending months of turmoil and his thwarted quest to be restored to power after a June 28 coup that drew international condemnation. The leftist leader drove past soldiers guarding the diplomatic compound in long caravan and headed for the airport accompanied by President Porfirio Lobo, said Hilda Cruz, an assistant of Zelaya's wife. Zelaya was going to the Dominican Republic as a private citizen under a deal signed by Lobo and the Caribbean country's President Leonel Fernandez, who flew to Honduras to accompany the former president.

Hundreds of stranded tourists rescued in Peru

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Helicopters ferried almost 600 more tourists from the Machu Picchu area after rains slackened Wednesday, leaving up to 1,600 travelers still stranded by mudslides blocking the only land route from the famed Inca citadel. Authorities said airlifts would continue throughout the week because more tourists had shown up at the evacuation site on foot after completing treks along the Inca trail to Machu Picchu, the 15th century Incan fortress that 2,430 meters (8,000 feet) above sea level. Rain-fueled mudslides on Sunday cut the train line that is the only transport link to the remote region atop an Andean mountain ridge. Adding to the worries, tourists flown out Wednesday reported that a rain-swollen river had eroded the site where rescue helicopters are landing.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-002

"SECURITY SERVICES FOR SAN VICENTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (SVES)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **One (1) Year Campus Security Services for San Vicente Elementary School (SVES).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning January 22, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-002"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **February 11, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 10-003

"LAPTOPS FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS)"

The Public School System and the State Board of Education are soliciting Competitive Sealed Bids for **THREE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED EIGHTY (3380) LAPTOPS FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM (PSS).**

The Scope of Work is available beginning January 22, 2010 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the CNMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950. Faxed request maybe sent to 664-3791.

Bids should be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"IFB 10-003"** containing one (1) original with three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office no later than **February 10, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.,** at which time, bids will be publicly opened. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Questions must be in writing and addressed to Robert Florian, Procurement Officer via fax # (670) 664-3791 or e-mailed to the following address: robert.florian@pss.cnmi.mp

/s/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed. D.
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Robert Florian
Procurement Officer

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Man claims woman attacked his car for no reason

ALCOA, Tenn. (AP)—An East Tennessee man told police that a woman in a vehicle in front of his jumped on his hood and kicked and punched his windshield as he waited for a traffic light to change. The man, John P. Williamson, 37, said the incident was unprovoked. According to The Daily Times of Maryville, police quoted the woman as saying she was being followed. A woman, 58, was arrested and charged with vandalism of more than $500. She was being held in lieu of $1,000 bond pending a hearing Thursday in Blount County General Sessions Court.

Cafe food fight: Beef vs. chicken

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP)—A food fight in Brownsville has led to a cafe owner facing an aggravated assault charge over a customer allegedly whacked on the head with plate. Police said Maria Del Rayo Cordero was accused of tossing a tray of food and tea at the customer who had complained he ordered a chicken dish, but was served beef. KRGV-TV reported the pair argued before both allegedly threw food items at each other. Police said the owner is accused of grabbing a plate and striking the man. Paramedics treated him at the scene on Saturday. The owner was freed after posting $7,500 bond. She could not immediately be reached for comment Tuesday.

Wis. woman pleads no contest in rat in meal scheme

APPLETON, Wis. (AP)—An Appleton woman who tried to extort money from an upscale restaurant by putting a rat in her lunch has entered no-contest pleas to two criminal charges. The Appleton Post-Crescent reported 43-year-old Debbie R. Miller was found guilty after she entered the pleas to a felony extortion charge and a misdemeanor for obstructing police. Prosecutors said Miller planted the rat at The Seasons on April 17, 2008, and then demanded $500,000 from the owners. She threatened to alert the media. Instead of paying, the owners turned the rat over to investigators for their insurance company. They determined it was a domestic rat that had been cooked in a microwave. The restaurant doesn't use microwaves. Miller was arrested about three months later. Sentencing is scheduled for March 8.

Cops stop cyclist with butcher knife-pool cue axe

ALEXANDRIA, La. (AP)—Alexandria police said man stopped for riding his bicycle at night without a headlight was carrying a weapon made from a butcher knife attached to a pool cue. They said the 51-year-old man also had a razor blade in his hat. He was booked with illegally carrying a weapon, doing so after a felony conviction, resisting an officer, public intoxication and at least five outstanding warrants. The police report said the suspect originally gave police a fake name. An officer patted him down and found a metal push rod that appeared to be used for smoking crack cocaine. They also found a prescription painkiller in someone else's name.

PETA proposes robotic groundhog for Pa. festival

PUNXSUTAWNEY, Pa. (AP)—An animal rights group wants organizers of Pennsylvania's Groundhog Day festival to replace Punxsutawney Phil with a robotic stand-in. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals says it's unfair to keep the animal in captivity and subject him to the huge crowds and bright lights that accompany tens of thousands of revelers each Feb. 2 in Punxsutawney, a tiny borough about 65 miles northeast of Pittsburgh. PETA is suggesting the use of an animatronic model. But William Deeley, president of the Inner Circle of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club, says the animal is "being treated better than the average child in Pennsylvania." The groundhog is kept in a climate-controlled environment and is inspected annually by the state Department of Agriculture. Deeley says PETA isn't interested in Phil from Feb. 2 on, and is looking for publicity.

Burning bagel empties Portland City Hall

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—An overdone bagel forced the evacuation of Portland's City Hall. The Oregonian reported that City Hall emptied for about 20 minutes Wednesday morning while firefighters dealt with the burning bagel in the break room of Mayor Sam Adam's office. There's no immediate word on who burned the bagel in the toaster oven or what type of bagel it was. City commissioners were meeting at the time and joined those who took to the sidewalks. Adams apologized for the interruption after the evacuation.

Boulder crashes through house, barely misses woman

ROGERSVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Emergency officials say a boulder about the size of a compact car crashed into an apartment in eastern Tennessee, barely missing a woman sleeping in her bedroom. Fire Chief David Jackson in Rogersville says 75-year-old Elizabeth Allred was lucky that the 10-foot-wide boulder didn't hit her bed straight on. Instead, it crashed nearby and the imploding wall sent her hospital bed rolling across the room. She was at home recovering from a broken hip when it happened Monday morning. Allred told Jackson it felt like a train crashed into her room. Jackson said the boulder broke loose from a bank above the dwelling during recent rains. The Kingsport Times-News reported that Allred was listed in good condition at a hospital on Tuesday.

Boy, 3, dials 911 after grandmother has seizure

MAPLE SHADE, N.J. (AP)—A 3-year-old New Jersey boy was hailed as a hero after he called 911 on Friday after his grandmother had a seizure. Jaden Bolli was at grandmother Patricia Bolli's home in Maple Shade because his other grandmother, who was scheduled to watch him, was sick. When the 54-year-old grandma went to get out some puzzles, she had a seizure. The boy found a phone and dialed 911 for help as his mother taught him to do just days before. Burlington County 911 Coordinator Monica Gavio said the call was very unusual. Usually, when a child that age dials 911 she says, it's an accident. But she said it shows that young children can be taught how to get help in an emergency. Patricia Bolli is in a hospital, where doctors are trying to diagnose her.

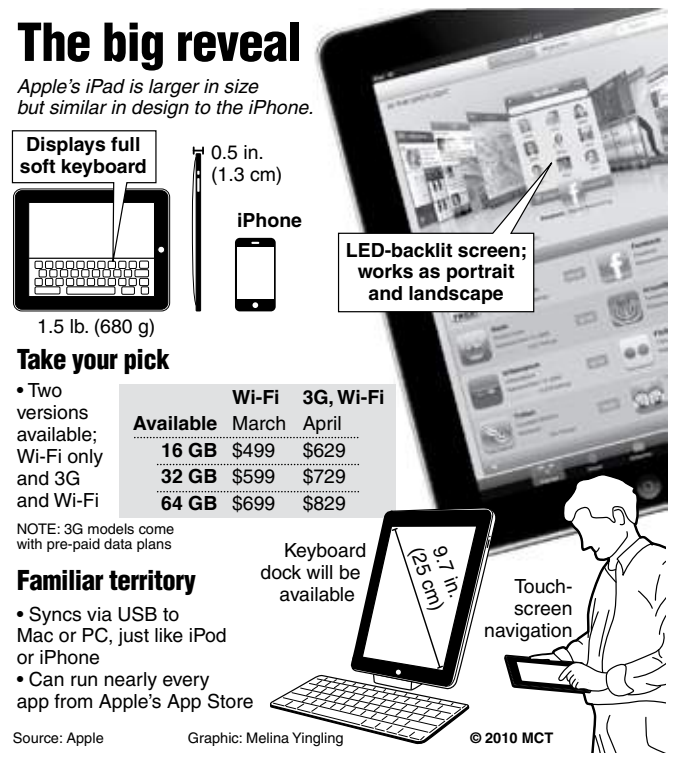
Neb. woman accused of having sex with young son

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—Prosecutors say a 41-year-old Nebraska woman had sex nightly with her teenage son when he was in seventh and eighth grade. The Fort Calhoun woman has been charged with first-degree sexual assault and made an initial appearance Wednesday in Douglas County Court. Her bond has been set at $30,000. Douglas County Attorney Don Kleine says the boy, now 15, reported the alleged abuse to a counselor, who notified police. Investigators say the boy told them his mother was addicted to prescription painkillers when the alleged abuse took place. The Associated Press is not identifying the woman to protect her son's identity because he is the alleged victim of sexual assault. Fort Calhoun is 13 miles north of Omaha.

Science & Technology

How Apple's iPad measures up

By JESSICA MINTZ
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER


The big reveal
Apple's iPad is larger in size but similar in design to the iPhone.
Displays full soft keyboard
0.5 in. (1.3 cm)
iPhone
LED-backlit screen; works as portrait and landscape
1.5 lb. (680 g)
Take your pick
• Two versions available; Wi-Fi only and 3G and Wi-Fi
Wi-Fi 3G, Wi-Fi
Available March April
16 GB $499 $629
32 GB $599 $729
64 GB $699 $829
NOTE: 3G models come with pre-paid data plans
Familiar territory
• Syncs via USB to Mac or PC, just like iPod or iPhone
• Can run nearly every app from Apple's App Store
Keyboard dock will be available
9.7 in. (25 cm)
Touch-screen navigation
Source: Apple
Graphic: Melina Yingling
© 2010 MCT

Apple Inc. says its tablet-style iPad computer represents a whole new category of consumer-electronic devices, ideal for watching videos, surfing the Web and reading electronic books.

Here is how it stacks up with other Internet-connected portable devices that consumers are already using:

■ iPad vs. laptop

The iPad is easier to stash and carry than most laptops. The device weighs just 1.5 pounds, compared with a few pounds for the typical laptop. At a mere half-inch thick, the iPad is also thinner than most laptops, including Apple's super-thin Macbook Air. The entry-level iPad is less expensive than most full-fledged laptops and claims to have a longer battery life at 10 hours, compared with three to four hours for a typical full-sized laptop.

But with a maximum of 64 gigabytes of storage, the iPad can't hold as many photos, movies and songs as most laptops, which typically have hard drives that are several times that capacity. It doesn't come with a physical keyboard as laptops do, though Apple will sell an add-on dock with a keyboard.

■ iPad vs. netbook

As Apple CEO Steve Jobs said Wednesday, smaller laptops known as netbooks are "not better than a laptop at anything—they're just cheaper." They use less-powerful chips than regular laptops, and as a result they don't handle video or other processing-intensive tasks well. The iPad uses a new chip that is custom designed by Apple. Jobs says the chip is extremely fast.

The iPad models that come with the ability to go online with AT&T's wireless network are more expensive than netbooks that can do that, as those netbooks are subsidized by wireless carriers. But unlike netbooks, the iPad doesn't require users to enter a long-term service contract with a carrier.

■ iPad vs. smart phones

Browsing the Web, watching video and reading books are more comfortable on a big iPad screen, which measures 9.7 inches diagonally, than a tiny smart phone screen—the iPhone's display, for instance, is 3.5 inches diagonally. However, while the iPad has a built-in microphone and could work with Internet-based phone services such as Skype, it's not a telephone. And it definitely doesn't fit in your pocket, the way Apple's iPhone does.

■ iPad vs. e-readers

Using the iPad's touch screen to buy books and start reading seems fast compared with the navigation required on Amazon.com Inc.'s Kindle, which you navigate by pushing physical buttons on the device because it has no touch screen. Book covers are displayed on a "shelf" on the screen, and the reader software emulates the look of a paper book.

But the iPad has a glossy screen, so it might not be as easy on the eyes as the Kindle and other e-readers, which generally sport electronic-ink technology. And it probably won't be as easy to read outdoors on the iPad.

THE HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(c) 2010, The Washington Post

Q: Because my older PC lacks WiFi, I had to run a long network cable from my Verizon Fios router to it. Can I use the Linksys router I got for my old Comcast account to relay the WiFi?

A: If relocating the Fios router isn't an option, you can do exactly that. But it will involve more tinkering than I usually suggest: First, you load third-party firmware on the Linksys router, then you configure that new software to "bridge" your WiFi to the computer's Ethernet connection.

Several different kinds of free, alternative firmware (the name describes how this low-level software is embedded in the chips of a device) exist for Linksys's widely used WRT54 routers. When I wanted to use one such spare model to hook up an HDTV with Internet-video features, I went with the DD-WRT firmware (dd-wrt.com).

The DD-WRT site has a complete set of directions, or visit makeuseof.com and search for "DD-WRT bridge" to get a simpler walkthrough of upgrading an old router. The exact procedure is way too detailed to relate here; suffice it to say that you need to follow directions *exactly*, be patient, and have a decent grasp of networking jargon. It doesn't hurt to be lucky either, as the firmware-update procedure can "brick" the router if something goes awry.

But as I found out, at the end of the process you can extend your wireless network in two ways. You can run an Ethernet cable from it to a WiFi-deprived computer (or TV). Or, if your existing router supports a feature called WDS, short for "Wireless Distribution System," you can employ your souped-up router to extend your wireless coverage. Unfortunately, Verizon's Fios routers don't appear on DD-WRT's list of WDS-compatible hardware.

If you're not too technically inclined, though, this is best left to a friend with computing skills — whom you can then take out to dinner as a reward.

In God's Care

WALTER DAVID DE LEON GUERRERO

(Lovingly known as "Wally" or "Wally Boy")
born on September 22, 1969
went to meet our Lord in his new home
on January 19, 2010 at the age of 40.

Entering the gates of heaven, Wally will be greeted and reunited with his:

Maternal Grandmother – Maria Crispina Ada De Leon Guerrero
Paternal Grandparents – Vicente Iglesias & Rosa Cepeda Leon Guerrero
Great Grandparents – Vicente Diaz & Guadalupe Ada De Leon Guerrero
Uncles & Aunt – Monsignor Jose A. & Jesus A. De Leon Guerrero; Joaquin C., Bernardo C. & Vertilia C. Leon Guerrero
Cousins – Vicente P. & Rudy P. Leon Guerrero; and his nephew, James Peter De Leon Guerrero

Wally's laughter, pleasant personality, and loving memories will forever be treasured by his:

Parents – Alicia and Jose Cepeda Leon Guerrero
Children & grandchildren – Yerma Darcell [Hayden Lucas Scott]; Josef Joachin; David Bradley; Vincent James [Risha Jo'An]; Almina; LizAnn; Bradly John, and Maria Crispina.
Siblings – Joellene Collette/Albert Abadam & children; Roslyn Monique Leon Guerrero; Guadalupe Maria/Dennis Urdaneta & son; Alana May Leon Guerrero; Marlene Marie Leon Guerrero & children; Jeffrey Leon Guerrero & daughter.

Brothers of the heart – Charlie Leon Guerrero & family; Nicolas Leon Guerrero & family; Christopher Leon Guerrero & family

Godparents – David M. & Rita C. Sablan; Guadalupe Perez Manglona; David P. & Connie Sablan; Steven P. Sablan

Wally is also loved and cherished by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.

Daily masses of intentions are offered at 6:00 a.m. and rosary is prayed at 7:00 p.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Wally will be with us for the last time on Saturday, January 30, 2010. Visitation and last respects are welcomed beginning 9:00 a.m. at Mount Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 2:00 p.m. followed immediately with interment at Mount Carmel Cemetery where he will be laid to rest.

Your thoughts and most especially your prayers are sincerely appreciated.

THE FAMILY

Life & Style

John Edwards says separation 'extraordinarily sad'

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP)—Former presidential candidate John Edwards said Wednesday he still cares deeply about his wife despite the couple's separation.

"It is an extraordinarily sad moment, but I love my children more than anything and still care deeply about Elizabeth," Edwards said in a statement to The Associated Press.

A friend of Elizabeth Edwards confirmed Wednesday that the couple is separated, after a tumultuous three years in which the couple's marital troubles became tabloid fodder.

Andrea Purse, a friend of Elizabeth Edwards, confirmed to The Associated Press on Wednesday that the 60-year-old mother of four has separated from her husband. North Carolina law requires couples to be separated for a year before divorcing.

"Elizabeth is moving on with her life and wants to put this difficult chapter behind her," a statement released by Purse said.

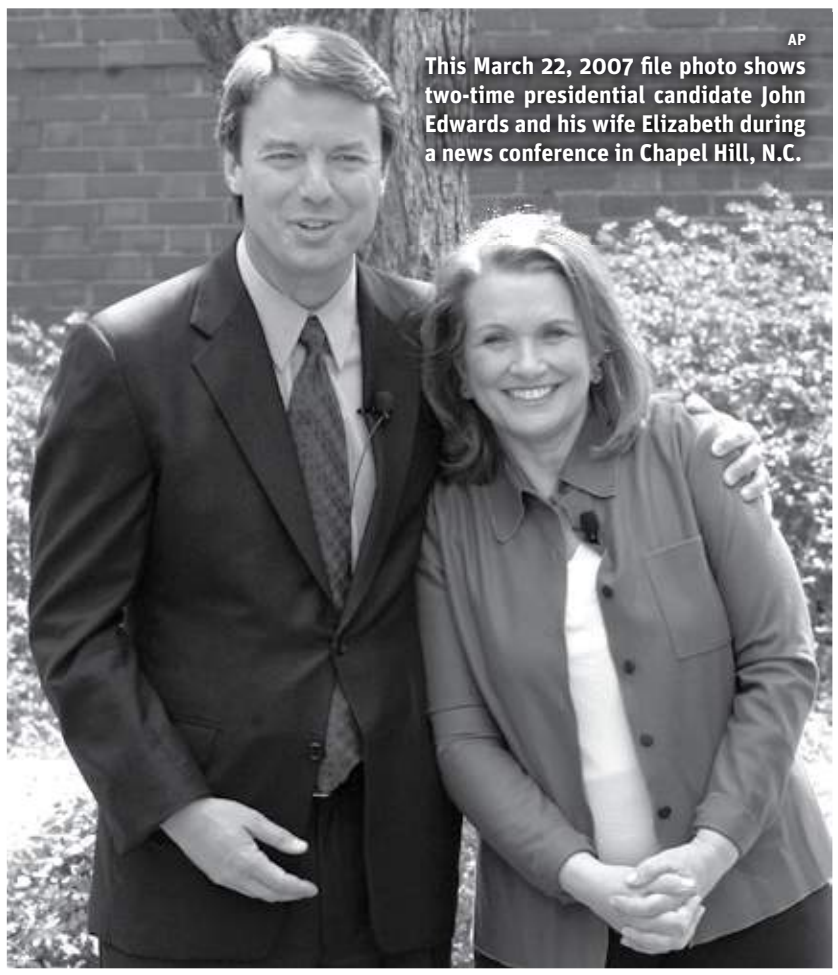
Elizabeth's sister, Nancy Anania, told the AP that she remains strong.

"She's doing as well as you could expect," Anania said. "I'm really proud of her that, somehow, she's got strength that you rarely see in a person."

The statements come as a former aide to Edwards prepares to release a tell-all book that gives an unflattering portrait of the couple and the tumultuous relationship they tried to maintain after he first acknowledged his affair on the campaign trail. It also comes one week after John Edwards finally made a public declaration that he fathered a child, now almost 2 years old, with his mistress.

It's another wrenching twist for a couple that had previously weathered the death of a 16-year-old son and her ongoing battle with incurable cancer.

They were law school sweethearts who got married just days after they took the bar exam together in the summer of 1977. Though John Edwards later went on to make millions as a trial lawyer, the couple had humble beginnings: He had to borrow money from her parents for a one-night honeymoon. She always wore her $11 wedding ring. For years they spent their anniversaries going to Wendy's, just as they did on their first one.



AP

This March 22, 2007 file photo shows two-time presidential candidate John Edwards and his wife Elizabeth during a news conference in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Former aide Andrew Young initially claimed that he fathered the child with John Edwards' mistress in the weeks leading up to the crucial presidential primaries. John Edwards publicly declared last week that he was the father of the child with Rielle Hunter, who worked as a videographer before his second presidential campaign in 2008.

Young's upcoming book details how Edwards went to great lengths to hide the affair. In excerpts from an ABC News interview, Young said that Edwards asked him to find a doctor who might fake a paternity test and asked him to steal a diaper from the baby, now almost 2, to determine whether it was really his. He also claims that the married couple sought to politicize her cancer diagnosis.

The statement released on behalf of Elizabeth Edwards said she will not engage in a dialogue on "false charges" in the book.

"Based on the limited portions of the book that have been made available, it is clear it contains many falsehoods and exaggerations," she said. She responded to one point, saying the suggestion that she capitalized on her cancer is "unconscionable, hurtful and patently false."

Elizabeth Edwards has an incurable form of cancer that returned in 2007 as the couple was campaigning for the presidency. She said last week that her health got worse for a period but has been recently improving.

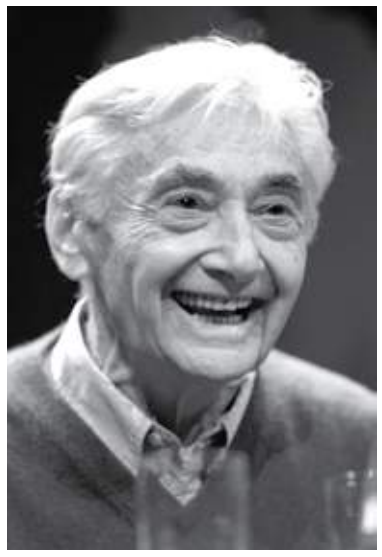
John Edwards, a former North Carolina senator and 2004 Democratic vice presidential candidate, has largely stayed secluded since first admitting the affair in August 2008. He denied fathering a child with Hunter at that time. He has acknowledged a federal investigation into his campaign finances.

'People's History' author Howard Zinn dies at 87

By HILLEL ITALIE
AP NATIONAL WRITER

Howard Zinn, an author, teacher and political activist whose leftist "A People's History of the United States" became a million-selling alternative to mainstream texts and a favorite of such celebrities as Bruce Springsteen and Ben Affleck, died Wednesday. He was 87.

Zinn died of a heart attack in Santa Monica, Calif., daughter Myla Kabat-Zinn said. The historian was a resident of Auburndale, Mass.



AP

This Jan. 9, 2008 file photo shows author Howard Zinn, during a visit in Boston at Emerson College. Zinn died in Santa Monica, Calif., Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010. He was 87.

Published in 1980 with little promotion and a first printing of 5,000, "A People's History" was—fittingly—a people's best-seller, attracting a wide audience through word of mouth and reaching 1 million sales in 2003. Although Zinn was writing for a general readership, his book was taught in high schools and colleges throughout the country, and numerous companion editions were published, including "Voices of a People's History," a volume for young people and a graphic novel

"I can't think of anyone who had such a powerful and benign influence," said the linguist and fellow activist Noam Chomsky, a close friend of Zinn's. "His historical work changed the way millions of people saw the past."

At a time when few politicians dared even call themselves liberal, "A People's History" told an openly left-wing story. Zinn charged Christopher Columbus and other explorers with genocide, picked apart presidents from Andrew Jackson to Franklin D. Roosevelt and celebrated workers, feminists and war resisters.

Even liberal historians were uneasy with Zinn. Arthur M. Schlesinger Jr. once said: "I know he regards me as a dangerous reactionary. And I don't take him very seriously. He's a polemicist, not a historian."

In a 1998 interview with The Associated Press, Zinn acknowledged he was not trying to write an objective history, or a complete one. He called his book a response to traditional works, the first chapter—not the last—of a new kind of history.

"There's no such thing as a whole story; every story is incomplete," Zinn said. "My idea was the orthodox viewpoint has already been done a thousand times."

"A People's History" had some famous admirers, including Matt Damon and Affleck. The two grew up near Zinn, were family friends and gave the book a plug in their Academy Award-winning screenplay for "Good Will Hunting." When Affleck nearly married Jennifer Lopez, Zinn was on the guest list.

"He taught me how valuable—how necessary dissent was to democracy and to America itself," Affleck said in a statement. "He taught that history was made by the everyman, not the elites. I was lucky enough to know him personally and I will carry with me what I learned from him—and try to impart it to my own children—in his memory."

Oliver Stone was a fan, as well as Springsteen, whose bleak "Nebraska" album was inspired in part by "A People's History."

Susan Boyle gives thumbs-up after intruder scare

LONDON (AP)—Singing sensation Susan Boyle said Wednesday that she felt fine despite a break-in by a teenager at her home in Scotland, British media reported.

Boyle, who shot to international stardom on the back of her appearance on a TV talent show last spring, saw a youth run out from her home in the small Scottish village of Blackburn as she returned Tuesday night from recording a charity single for Haiti, The Sun tabloid said.

The singer appeared calm Wednesday, smiling and giving the thumbs-up to well-wishers outside her house.

"I'm fine. It's in the hands of the police now," she told Britain's Press Association.

Local police said they were called to Blackburn Tuesday night "following reports of a disturbance." They said an unidentified 16-year-old boy was detained and but has since been released.

Boyle, 48, became an international sensation after a clip of her singing "I Dreamed a Dream" on "Britain's Got Talent" spread online and received more than 120 million views on YouTube. She released one of the year's top-selling albums in November.

Singer Susan Boyle gives a thumbs up sign outside her house in Blackburn, Scotland, Wednesday Jan. 27, 2010. AP

Judge in Reno won't stop the 'Girls Gone Wild' trial

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Charges against a former Nevada sheriff's deputy accused of accepting gifts in exchange for giving preferential treatment to the jailed creator of the "Girls Gone Wild" videos won't be dismissed, a federal judge said Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge Larry Hicks denied a motion from the lawyer defending former Washoe County jail Sgt. Michon Mills, who served as a liaison between Joe Francis' lawyers and the jail in Reno while he was held on tax charges from June 2007 to March 2008. Francis is the founder of "Girls Gone Wild."

The bribery trial is expected to continue Thursday and into Friday.

A Hollywood associate of Francis has pleaded guilty to a related misdemeanor charge and admitted he provided Mills with a $4,500 Cartier watch and a $5,000 Saks Fifth Avenue gift card.

But the associate, Aaron Weinstein, testified that Mills never considered the gifts a bribe and eventually gave back the unused gift card and unworn watch.

Two other former deputies also have pleaded guilty to accepting a gratuity as a public official, including one who received $3,200 in cash and four tickets to an Oakland Raiders game in exchange for bringing Francis sushi on two occasions.

Francis, whose videos feature women exposing themselves on camera, was sentenced in November to time served and one year of probation related to tax evasion counts and bribing jail workers.

Reeling in the money

"Avatar" is now the top-grossing film worldwide but trails in the U.S. and when ticket prices are adjusted for inflation. Box office gross, in millions:

Top movies worldwide

Avatar	**$1,843.7**
Titanic	$1,843.2
Lord of the Rings: Return of the King	$1,119.1
Pirates ... Dead Man's Chest	$1,001.9
The Dark Knight	$1,066.2
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	$974.7
Pirates ... At the World's End	$961.0
Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix	$938.2
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince	$934.0
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers	$925.3

Top movies in U.S.

Titanic	$600.8
Avatar	**$551.7**
The Dark Knight	$533.3
Star Wars	$461.0
Shrek Two	$441.2
ET: The Extra-Terrestrial	$435.1
Star Wars: Episode One	$435.1
Pirates ... Dead Man's Chest	$423.3
Spider-Man	$403.7
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen	$402.1

Top movies in 2010 ticket prices

Gone with the Wind	$1,485.0
Star Wars	$1,309.2
Sound of Music	$1,046.8
ET: The Extra-Terrestrial	$1,042.7
Ten Commandments	$943.3
Titanic	$962.9
Jaws	$941.4
The Exorcist	$812.7
Doctor Zhivago	$912.4
Snow White ...	$801.2
Avatar (No. 26)	**$558.5**

Source: Box Office Mojo, Hollywood Reporter Graphic: Pat Carr © 2010 MCT

Sheen's wife recuperating at NC wellness center

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charlie Sheen's wife is recovering at a North Carolina wellness center after an infection that nearly took her life, her lawyer said Wednesday.

Yale Galanter said Brooke Sheen, 32, was flown by private plane from Los Angeles after her release from a hospital. He denied Internet reports that she was in drug or alcohol rehab.

Brooke Sheen was "mentally and physically exhausted" when she left the hospital and her mother arranged for her to go to a place that will help her recover, Galanter said. He refused to name the facility and said it will not be made public. Galanter described it as a wellness center with an emphasis on spiritual and physical healing with yoga and healthy food.

"She's definitely not in a place for drug or alcohol rehabilitation," he said.

Brooke Sheen has been through numerous ordeals since Christmas Day, when a domestic disturbance at the Sheens' Aspen home propelled them into headlines, Galanter said.

"Since Dec. 25, she's been assaulted by her husband and had a knife put to her throat, decided to reconcile with her husband, which the court prevented, delayed having oral surgery because of a scheduled court hearing and then developed an infection that spread to her blood stream," he said. "She developed pneumonia and she almost lost her life."

During her seven-day stay at a hospital in the Sherman Oaks area of Los Angeles, Brooke Sheen was in intensive care for several days. "She's been through a lot," said Galanter. He said Brooke Sheen's mother is very protective of her daughter and wanted her to go to a quiet place to convalesce where she would not be hounded by the press. Doctors recommended the North Carolina location, Galanter said.

Michael Douglas' son pleads guilty in NY meth case

NEW YORK (AP)—The hard-luck son of Michael Douglas pleaded guilty on Wednesday to dealing large quantities of methamphetamine and cocaine while holed up in a trendy Manhattan hotel where he was arrested last year.

Douglas

Cameron Douglas, 31, told a judge that a New York contact first asked him if he could score the drugs in 2006. After that, "I began supplying on a regular basis."

Asked by a judge if he knew what he was doing was wrong, he replied, "Yes, your honor."

Prosecutors said Douglas had signed a plea agreement, but the details weren't disclosed.

In addition to conspiracy to distribute drugs, Douglas pleaded guilty to heroin possession—a charge stemming from allegations that his girlfriend tried to smuggle him the drug in an electric toothbrush while he was under house arrest.

He faces a minimum 10-year prison term at sentencing on April 27.

"I think he handled it well under the circumstances," defense attorney Nicholas DeFeis said after his jailed client's plea.

The son of the Oscar-winning actor was arrested July 28, 2009, at the trendy Hotel Gansevoort as part of a Drug Enforcement Administration investigation.

A criminal complaint drawn up by a DEA agent last year said the allegations were based on information provided by three unnamed crystal meth users and dealers. The users—including someone who once worked for Cameron Douglas—had pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate with the investigation.

Investigators say Douglas was paid tens of thousands of dollars for trafficking methamphetamine—what he referred to in intercepted phone calls as "pastry" or "bath salts." Cash and drugs were routinely exchanged from coast to coast through shippers like FedEx, the court papers said.

Quincy Jones wants 'We Are the World' Haiti redo

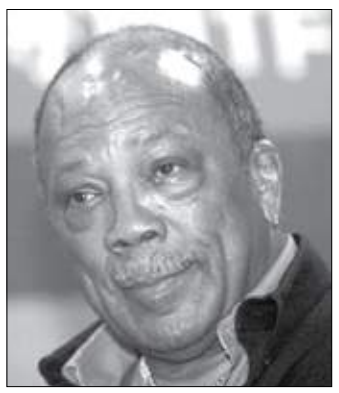
LOS ANGELES (AP)—Quincy Jones is re-recording the charity song "We Are the World" and sending the proceeds to Haiti.

The 76-year-old music legend says musicians are gathering Monday at a Los Angeles recording studio to redo the 25-year-old hit song.

Jones would not say who will perform on the track "because we've got to make sure we've got who we got," but that the revamped song will feature a new roster of all-star musicians.

The original 1985 hit, written by Michael Jackson and Lionel Richie, featured Bruce Springsteen, Cyndi Lauper, Stevie Wonder, Billy Joel and Tina Turner, among others.

Jones discussed the track and his other charitable endeavors at a private party Wednesday celebrating watchmaker Audemars Piguet's donation of $1 million to the Quincy Jones Foundation.



Jones

Blige, Bocelli duet to raise funds for Haiti

NEW YORK (AP)—R&B singer Mary J. Blige and Italian tenor Andrea Bocelli will perform Simon and Garfunkel's "Bridge Over Troubled Water" during a fundraising segment for Haiti relief at this year's Grammy Awards.

The Recording Academy said Wednesday the duet will be available for download at iTunes.com/Target following the show, with all proceeds going to the American Red Cross to benefit earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

The 52nd annual Grammy Awards will air live Sunday on CBS from the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

Music's biggest night will also include performances by album of the year nominees Beyonce, the Black Eyed Peas, Lady Gaga, the Dave Matthews Band and Taylor Swift.

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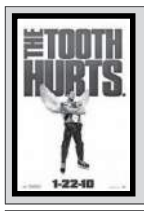
Saturday	1:20	4:10	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:20	4:10	7:30	
Mon thru Thurs		4:10	7:30	

Mel Gibson, Ray Winstone
Mystery • Rated R

Synopsis
Casino Royale's Martin Campbell returns to familiar territory with this adaptation of his own 1985 BBC miniseries -- a mystery starring Mel Gibson as a detective looking into his political-activist daughter's death and uncovering layers of governmental conspiracies in the process. William Monahan (The Departed) provides the screenplay for the GK Films production, co-starring Ray Winstone and Danny Huston.



The Tooth Fairy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Mon thru Thurs		4:00	7:00	

Dwayne Johnson, Ashley Judd
Comedy Drama • Rated PG

Synopsis
20th Century Fox presents this family comedy following a star hockey player's (Dwayne Johnson) temporary transformation into a full-fledged tooth fairy as penalty for discouraging a young fan. Director Michael Lembeck (The Santa Clause 2 and 3) helms the family comedy, based on a screenplay by veteran comedic writers Lowell Ganz and Babaloo Mandel, with additional writing provided by Joshua Sternin and Jeffrey Ventimilia. Ashley Judd and Julie Andrews co-star in the Blumhouse and Mayhem Pictures production.

I Love You, Goodbye

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Mon thru Thurs		4:05	7:05	

Derek Ramsay, Angelica Panganiban
Romance, Drama • Rated NR

Synopsis
Gary (Derek Ramsay) and Lizelle (Angelica Panganiban) are lovers for 4 years. One day in the search for a better life and future they decide to work together in a cruise ship and both attend an interview test on the ship. During the test both are required to jump into the sea with Lizelle getting scared and failing the test, making her ineligible to work on the cruise ship. Gary then proceeds to work on the cruise ship leaving Lizelle behind without saying goodbye to her. Gary's unexpected departure makes Lizelle really sad and this also marks the end of their relationship.

The Book of Eli

Friday		4:20	7:10	9:40
Saturday	1:30	4:20	7:10	9:40
Sunday	1:30	4:20	7:10	
Mon thru Thurs		4:20	7:10	

Denzel Washington, Gary Oldman
Action • Rated R

The Spy Next Door

Friday		4:30	7:20	9:35
Saturday	1:10	4:30	7:20	9:35
Sunday	1:10	4:30	7:20	
Mon thru Thurs		4:30	7:20	

Jackie Chan, George Lopez
Comedy • Rated PG

Alvin & The Chipmunks: The Sqeakquel

Friday		4:15	7:25	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:25	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:25	
Mon thru Thurs		4:15	7:25	

Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler
Children, Family • Rated PG

Avatar

Friday		3:55	6:55	10:00
Saturday	12:50	3:55	6:55	10:00
Sunday	12:50	3:55	6:55	
Mon thru Thurs		3:55	6:55	

Sam Worthington, Zoe Saldana
Science Fiction • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

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Cash-strapped parents regret deathbed promise made to son

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My 31-year-old son, "Joey," who needs a heart transplant, almost died a few weeks ago. The doctors told us he wouldn't make it through the weekend. I was beside myself. On what we thought was his deathbed, I told Joey I would give him anything he wanted if he pulled through. He wanted a very expensive sports car.

Well, my son pulled through, but has other physical challenges. My husband and I are sending him $500 a month until he starts receiving money from Social Security. It's the best we can do right now. The problem is, Joey keeps hounding me about the sports car. I cannot afford this gift. We have offered to have his current vehicle reconditioned or give him my year-old car with its very low mileage.

I do not want this to become an issue with my son. I have told him his heart condition is the priority and to let everything else fall into place. It's eating me alive that I can't give my son what I promised. On the other hand, his request is unreasonable. Please help.

JOEY'S MOM IN LAS CRUCES

DEAR MOM: Unless you put a stop to it now, this WILL become an issue with your son. Surely he is in touch enough with reality that he knows your financial situation—and if he doesn't, please inform him. While you're at it, explain that when you thought he was on his deathbed, you were out of your mind with grief—and you can't be held to a promise made under such duress. At $500 a month, you can hardly be accused of being a withholding parent, so stop beating yourself up.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 21-year-old daughter, "Crystal," has been engaged to her boyfriend, "Aaron," for several months. When she was here recently I asked her to clean out some of the stuff from under her bed and in her closet. She proceeded to throw out her yearbooks, photos from high school dances—even old journals!

It seems she had an unpleasant experience with Aaron when a roommate mentioned an old friend of hers—a boy, but not a boyfriend. Aaron became very "hurt" by the conversation. So now Crystal wants no reminders of her past—especially regarding other boys.

Is this normal? I don't know what to do. I wonder whether they need counseling before they marry, but I don't want to interfere. My daughter becomes angry with me over little things. She even ignored us when we asked her to come celebrate her brother's birthday. She just wants to be with her true love; nobody else seems to matter.

A WORRIED MOM

DEAR MOM: Your idea of premarital counseling is an excellent one. Aaron appears to be extremely insecure, and your daughter is so in love she can't see the handwriting on the wall. When you invited her to celebrate her brother's birthday, did you also include her fiance? If so, and she still didn't want to come, Aaron may be trying to distance her from the family.

Assuming that Crystal intends to be married in your church, have a talk with your clergyperson about this. If there is a problem looming on the horizon, premarital counseling may bring it out—and help them to deal with it before it gets out of hand.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Hope for Haiti Now' is No. 1 on Billboard chart

NEW YORK (AP)—The all-star "Hope for Haiti Now" album has debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 chart, making it the first digital-only album to hit the top spot.

Nielsen SoundScan said Wednesday that the compilation CD of performances from last week's charity telethon sold 171,000 units over the weekend

The CD features performances by U2, Beyonce and Madonna, among others. More than 80 million people tuned in for Friday's telethon, which organizers have said raised $66 million.

The event, which also streamed live online, featured appearances by former President Clinton, Muhammad Ali, Brad Pitt and other stars who encouraged donations for Haiti, hit by a devastating Jan. 12 earthquake.

In this image released by Hope for Haiti Now, Bono, left, and Rihanna perform at the "Hope for Haiti Now: A Global Benefit for Earthquake Relief", Friday, Jan. 22, 2010 in London.
AP

Lucy Liu set for Broadway's 'God of Carnage'

NEW YORK (AP)—From "Kill Bill" and "Charlie's Angels" to Broadway. And don't forget "Ally McBeal."

Lucy Liu will make her Broadway debut in "God of Carnage," joining the Tony-winning comedy March 2 along with Dylan Baker, Janet McTeer and Jeff Daniels.

Producers Robert Fox and Stuart Thompson said Wednesday that Daniels, who had been in the play's original Broadway cast, will return to play a different role, the part originated by James Gandolfini.

The play's current cast—Jimmy Smits, Annie Potts, Christine Lahti and Ken Stott—will have its last performance Feb. 28. "God of Carnage" concerns the clash between two liberal, middle-class couples whose children get into a fight.

In this Sept. 15, 2009 file photo, actress Lucy Liu attends the Max Azria spring 2010 collection during fashion week in New York.
AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

'Heroes' actor Adrian Pasdar booked for DUI in LA

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Heroes" TV actor Adrian Pasdar has been arrested for allegedly driving drunk and veering across lanes on a West Los Angeles freeway. A California Highway Patrol report says Pasdar was pulled over shortly before 3 a.m. Wednesday after officers saw his Ford F-150 truck doing 94 mph and straddling two lanes on Interstate 405. The 44-year-old actor was booked for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department says he was taken to county jail and released at about 8:30 a.m. on $15,000 bail. Pasdar plays Nathan Petrelli on NBC's "Heroes." He's married to Dixie Chicks singer Natalie Maines. A message left for his agent wasn't immediately returned.

Michael Jackson rental home in Vegas fetches $3.1M

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A businesswoman says a 16,461-square-foot (1,530-square meter) Las Vegas mansion that pop icon Michael Jackson rented in 2008 has sold for $3.1 million. Carolyn Mullany of Coldwell Banker Premier Realty said Wednesday that a California couple bought the estate-style home on a gated one-acre (0.4 hectare) parcel in northwest Las Vegas. Mullany isn't identifying the buyers. She says the previous owner turned the property over to a bank before foreclosure and the sale closed Tuesday. It was first reported by the Las Vegas Sun. Mullany says the house has seven bedroom suites, two office suites, an elevator, a theater room and orchestra loft. The master bedroom is 2,000 square feet (185 square meters). A fitness room has a dance floor and dry sauna. The property also has basketball and tennis courts.

'Poltergeist' actress Zelda Rubinstein dies at 76

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zelda Rubinstein, the 4-foot-3-inch character actor best known as Tangina, the psychic who tries to calm a family inhabiting a haunted house in the 1982 horror film "Poltergeist," has died. She was 76. Her agent, Eric Stevens, tells the Los Angeles Times that Rubinstein died Wednesday at a Los Angeles hospital. Stevens says she recently suffered a heart attack. Rubinstein made her film debut in the 1981 comedy "Under the Rainbow" and went on to roles in "Sixteen Candles," "Southland Tales" and the TV show "Picket Fences." She returned for both "Poltergeist" sequels. The Pittsburgh native also appeared as the mother figure in a high-profile mid-1980s AIDS public awareness campaign and was an outspoken activist for the rights of little people.

Jay Leno says he hasn't spoken to Conan O'Brien

CHICAGO (AP)—Jay Leno tells Oprah Winfrey that he hasn't spoken to Conan O'Brien throughout the recent contentious negotiations over "The Tonight Show."

In quotes provided Wednesday by Harpo Productions, Leno tells Winfrey that "it didn't seem appropriate" to speak to O'Brien. But Leno says the two comedians might talk when "things cool down."

Leno

NBC unseated O'Brien and moved Leno back to the program he had hosted for 17 years. Leno is scheduled to return to "Tonight" on March 1.

In a video previewing "The Oprah Winfrey Show" interview, Leno says: "This whole thing was a huge mess."

Leno's interview is slated to air Thursday.

AP

In this image released by ABC, America Ferrera is shown as Betty Suarez in the comedy series "Ugly Betty."

Ugly truth for 'Ugly Betty': This season it ends

NEW YORK (AP)—It's ugly news for all the fans of "Ugly Betty." ABC says the series will be canceled after this season. A critical and popular success with its premiere in fall 2006, "Ugly Betty" has struggled in recent years with audience erosion.

Based on a Colombian telenovela, the warmhearted dramedy stars America Ferrera as an ambitious but style-challenged young woman out to build a future at a New York fashion magazine.

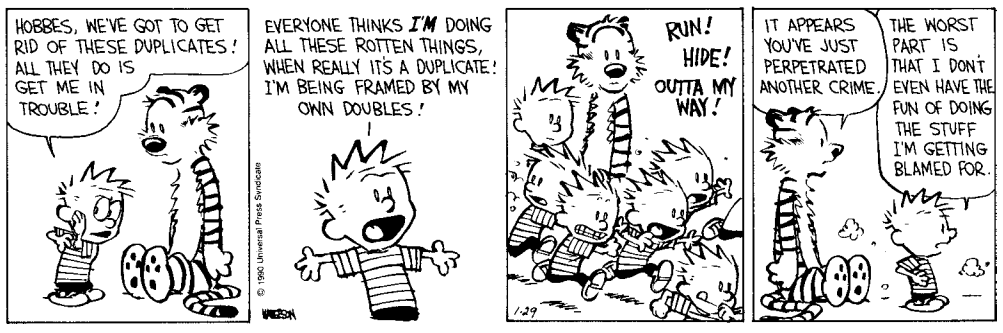
ABC is promising that the series will conclude its run in a fashion that will satisfy its fans. ABC says eight episodes are left.

The series has been saluted with Emmy, Golden Globe and Peabody awards, among others.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES, WE'VE GOT TO GET RID OF THESE DUPLICATES! ALL THEY DO IS GET ME IN TROUBLE!
EVERYONE THINKS I'M DOING ALL THESE ROTTEN THINGS, WHEN REALLY IT'S A DUPLICATE! I'M BEING FRAMED BY MY OWN DOUBLES!
© 1990 Universal Press Syndicate
RUN! HIDE! OUTTA MY WAY!
1-29
IT APPEARS YOU'VE JUST PERPETRATED ANOTHER CRIME.
THE WORST PART IS THAT I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE FUN OF DOING THE STUFF I'M GETTING BLAMED FOR.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

SIGH...
ERASE ERASE ERASE ERASE
www.garfield.com
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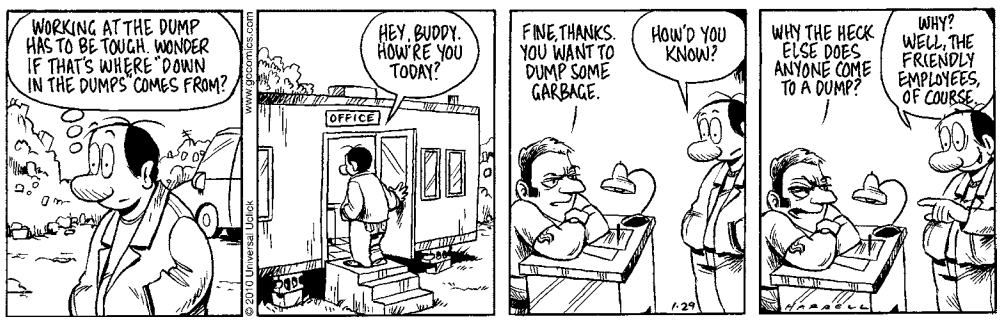
I MAY HAVE FIGURED OUT WHAT "SUDOKU" MEANS...
I THINK IT'S JAPANESE FOR AAAARRRGGHHH!!
HEY, THAT WAS IN MY CROSSWORD PUZZLE!
Distributed by Universal Uclick
JIM DAVIS 1-29

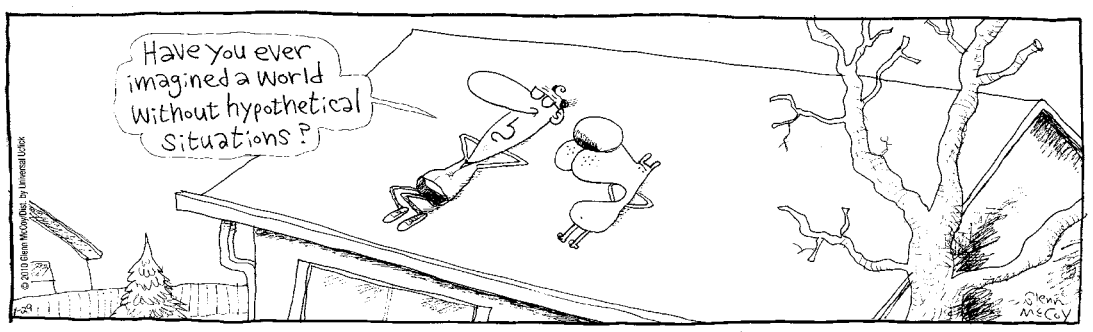
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WORKING AT THE DUMP HAS TO BE TOUGH. WONDER IF THAT'S WHERE "DOWN IN THE DUMPS" COMES FROM?
© 2010 Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com
HEY, BUDDY. HOW'RE YOU TODAY?
OFFICE
FINE, THANKS. YOU WANT TO DUMP SOME GARBAGE.
HOW'D YOU KNOW?
1-29
WHY THE HECK ELSE DOES ANYONE COME TO A DUMP?
WHY? WELL, THE FRIENDLY EMPLOYEES, OF COURSE.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Pie maker's device, at times
6 Sch. org.
9 Burst
12 Scent
13 Work unit
14 "Hail, Caesar!"
15 Genius
16 One who's hardly humble
18 Short and thick
20 Sty cry
21 Salamander
23 Crony
24 Intersect
25 Complaint
27 Skewered entree
29 Upbraid
31 Disinclined
35 Shopping centers
37 Go sightseeing
38 Claw
41 Victory
43 Inseparable
44 Language of Pakistan
45 Tots' break time
47 Supplementary dose
49 Election tally
52 Cleo's slayer
53 Ref
54 Varnish ingredient
55 Neptune's realm
56 Derek and Diddley
57 Old episode

DOWN
1 Taxi
2 Bobby of hockey lore
3 Poultry purchase
4 Send forth
5 Accumulated, as debts
6 Little rock
7 Avoirdupois alternative
8 — Khan
9 Veranda
10 They take the cake
11 Makes coffee, maybe
17 Fruity ice
19 Rock drummer Ginger
21 Decline
22 Doctor's due
24 Cleveland cager, for short
26 Renowned
28 Fundamental
30 Catch some rays
32 Farm alarm?
33 Baltimore newspaper
34 Prior to
36 Insignificant ones
38 Brass instruments
39 Got up
40 Treatment for Parkinson's
42 When pigs fly
45 San —, Italy
46 Unrivaled
48 Jalopy among boats
50 Flightless bird
51 Break a Commandment

Solution time: 25 mins.

L	I	S	T	■	H	A	M	■	E	M	U	S
O	D	O	R	■	E	G	O	■	Y	U	L	E
N	O	S	E	■	L	O	S	■	E	T	N	A
G	L	O	B	E	S	■	S	A	L	A	A	M
■	■	■	E	L	I	■	■	N	E	T	■	■
J	O	C	K	■	N	O	T	A	T	I	O	N
A	N	I	■	■	K	O	I	■	■	O	R	E
R	O	T	A	T	I	O	N	■	U	N	T	O
■	■	A	M	O	■	■	K	I	N	■	■	■
S	I	T	U	P	S	■	E	D	W	A	R	D
I	S	I	S	■	O	E	R	■	R	O	A	R
F	L	O	E	■	M	O	E	■	A	N	T	I
T	E	N	D	■	E	N	D	■	P	E	E	P

Yesterday's answer 1-29

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53				54				
55			■	56			■	57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jonny Lang, 29; Heather Graham, 40; Oprah Winfrey, 56; Tom Selleck, 65

Happy Birthday: You can make a difference to your future by looking at your past. Get rid of whatever is holding you back. You have the strength, courage and wherewithal to get what you want out of life if you show determination and put your skills to work. Action will be the name of the game. Believe in yourself. Your numbers are 5, 9, 17, 28, 33, 41, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Nothing will be simple. The faster you adjust to the way things are, the better the outcome. A good attitude and less frantic behavior will help considerably. ✪✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Be sure to make your own decisions. You'll be troubled by the problems an older relative is experiencing. It won't be easy, but it will give you greater understanding. Don't fight the inevitable. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): The more time you take to make a decision, the harder it will be for you to recoup any loss you've incurred. Money matters can be resolved if you collect or pay an old debt. Get busy before it's too late. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Get into something that really interests you and it will lead to a richer and more rewarding lifestyle. Learning something new or starting a new project will put you one step closer to your goals. Travel will bring you knowledge and life experience. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A situation that develops will make it difficult for you to deal with partners, bosses or any authoritative figure. Don't let your emotional feelings confuse you. Focus on moneymaking deals or making upgrades. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Everyone will come to you for solutions. You will be put on the spot and must be ready to cover your back. Someone is probably trying to put the spotlight on you as a diversion. Take care of other people's dilemmas quickly and launch your plans. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): The clearer you are about what you want, the easier it will be, so don't beat around the bush. Someone you are close to will play devil's advocate and question what you are trying to accomplish. Let this guide you, so you don't make mistakes. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Touch base with someone from your past who can shed light on a situation you face in your personal life. Experience in such matters will help to clear up questions, allowing you the mental freedom you need to move forward. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't fight a losing battle. Stick to your original plans and you will reach your goal. Money deals can be made but they must be within your budget. Don't leave anything to chance or you will take a loss. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Patience and tolerance may not be enough when it comes to dealing with personal matters and partnerships. Have everything looked at by a mediator/lawyer before you decide to deal with someone who isn't rational. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Expect someone to make a change that will throw you off-course. Showing your versatility and ability to stick to a schedule will impress someone who can improve your future. Dealing with authority figures or partners will be difficult. Stick to the truth. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You are capable of doing anything you put your mind to and, if you do, you will raise your profile and gain the respect you long for. Don't focus on the people who let you down. A couple of positive actions will bring you a big return. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are strong-willed and aggressive. You attract followers but are not afraid to stand alone. You are thoughtful of others.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		1		3		7		
		7	8		4	3		
	1		2		3		8	
6								9
	5		9		1		4	
		8	6		2	9		
		9		8		5		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	6	7	3	8	4	9	2	5
8	3	4	9	2	5	6	7	1
2	5	9	1	7	6	8	4	3
4	1	6	8	3	2	7	5	9
9	2	3	5	4	7	1	6	8
7	8	5	6	9	1	4	3	2
5	9	1	7	6	3	2	8	4
6	4	8	2	5	9	3	1	7
3	7	2	4	1	8	5	9	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 1/28

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BLENDERS **Solution: 5 letters**

S	E	P	E	R	E	C	I	(P)	E	P	O	W	E	R
Q	S	G	R	M	D	D	(L)	H	S	A	L	P	S	E
U	D	E	A	E	K	(U)	I	E	E	S	N	I	S	T
E	W	S	R	R	(P)	N	G	C	V	T	Z	I	O	R
E	H	H	T	P	E	A	I	U	I	E	O	O	P	O
Z	S	S	I	N	M	V	R	R	L	N	L	S	R	S
E	T	U	E	R	E	O	E	E	D	P	G	I	P	S
E	F	E	T	D	E	I	C	B	A	T	T	E	R	E
C	D	R	C	A	A	T	D	U	A	S	U	N	E	C
O	O	H	U	H	R	L	N	E	T	D	R	I	X	O
M	O	E	S	I	N	A	B	U	R	T	N	F	I	R
P	F	U	C	O	T	I	P	K	O	G	I	U	M	P
A	R	E	C	I	U	J	Q	P	O	C	N	N	O	E
C	L	O	S	E	L	N	D	U	A	O	G	I	G	P
T	E	G	D	A	G	S	D	N	E	H	C	T	I	K

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Apparatus, Batter, Beat, Beverage, Blades, Chop, Close, Compact, Compress, Cook, Counter, Crush, Cutting, Device, Dicing, Drink, Edge, Fine, Food, Fruit, Gadget, Ingredients, Juice, Kitchen, Level, Mash, Mixer, Noise, Paste, Plug, Pound, Power, Prepare, Processor, Pulp, Recipe, Shred, Size, Slice, Sound, Spin, Splash, Squeeze, Stir, Technique, Tool, Turning, Whir

Yesterday's Answer: Strike

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h (14.20 total each, U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

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• 5-Liner	$24	$39
• 3-Liner with picture	$24	$42
• 5-Liner with picture	$36	$57

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

AYUDA NETWORK, INC.
An Alliance of Northern Marianas Human/Social Service Providers

"DOING THINGS BETTER TOGETHER"

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
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Ayuda Network, Inc. (ANI), a non-profit organization, is looking for an energetic and dynamic individual to fill a full-time position of ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT.

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BASIC REQUIREMENTS:

High School graduate with at least 4 years experience in social and administrative services, and community outreach and organization preferred. General accounting knowledge and experience are highly recommended. Posses knowledge of computers and experience in database management and network administration.

Application and position description may be picked up at Ayuda Network, Inc. located in Susupe adjacent to KARIDAT Social Services Office from 8:00 a.m. till 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday. All clearance shall accompanied by a cover letter, a resume, and a police clearance. Dateline submission of applications will be no later than 3:00 p.m.; Friday, February 12, 2010. For more information contact Ayuda Network, Inc. at 322-7469 or 483-4416.

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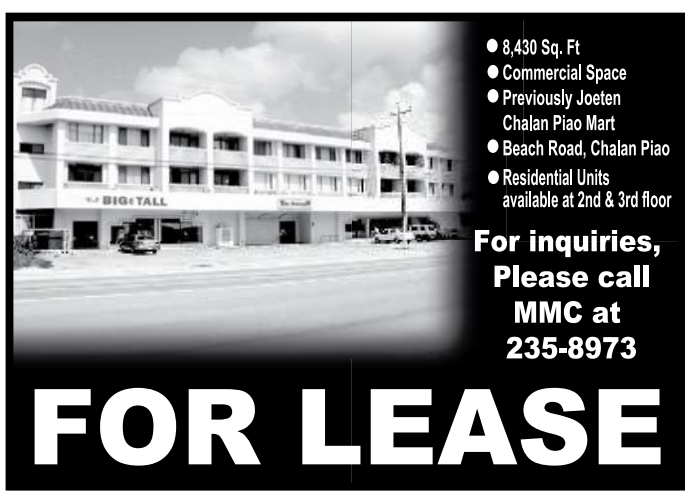
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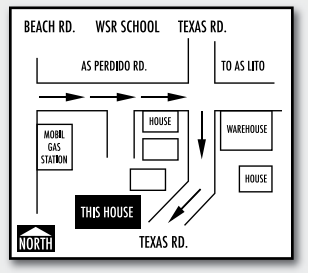


COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 01-2010 (AMENDED)

Opening date: January 21, 2010 **Closing date: February 5, 2010**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

Position: **(1) Comptroller-Saipan**
(1) Deputy Comptroller-Saipan
(1) Assistant Chief of Administration/ Training – Ports Police, Saipan
(1) Assistant Chief of Operations- Ports Police, Saipan
(2) Radio Operator/Weather Observer-Rota

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., February 5, 2010.***

Comptroller: A Masters Degree in Accounting or related field from an accredited US college or university with no less than two (2) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level; Bachelors Degree candidate must posses no less than six (6) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional accounting level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience; Associates Degree candidates must posses eight (8) years of experience in accounting of which three (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Accounting experience in autonomous agencies and/or a certified public accountant is preferred. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Deputy Comptroller: Possess A four (4) year degree in accounting, finance or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than five (6) years of progressively responsible experience in professional accounting, finance or managerial level of which three (2) years pertain to supervisory level. Associates Degree candidates must posses eight (8) years of experience in accounting of which three (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

This position is on a fast track for Comptroller. Accordingly emphasis will be given to applicants who have advanced degrees or are CPA candidates.

Ports Police Assistant Chief for Admin./Training: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) possess a certificate in Police Science or an AA degree in Police Science or Law Enforcement is desirable from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than eight (8) years of progressively responsible experience in airport security or law enforcement programs of which four (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Ports Police Assistant Chief for Operations: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and AA degree in Police Science, law enforcement or related field from an accredited U.S. college or university with no less than eight (8) years of progressively responsible experience in airport security or law enforcement programs of which four (4) years pertain to supervisory experience. Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction.

Radio Operator/Weather Observer: Graduation from high school (or G.E.D.). No record of felony or criminal conviction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact Ms. Addy C. Manahane by email at acmanahane@cpa.gov.mp or by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON-GUERRERO
Executive Director

Recruitment For Zoning Administrator

The Commonwealth Zoning Board is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Zoning Administrator. This is a full-time position on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Zoning Administrator manages the Zoning Office, which is responsible for processing permit inquiries and applications, maintaining record and data systems, inspecting and enforcing compliance, interpreting the Saipan Zoning Law with assistance of legal counsel, educating the public, staffing the Zoning Board, coordinating with other agencies, preparing updates to the Saipan Zoning Law and Board Regulations, preparing budgets and tracking expenditures, and preparing reports and grant applications (see Section 310 of the Saipan Zoning Law at www.zoning.gov.mp).

The Saipan Zoning Law of 2007 became effective on February 1, 2008. Since then, the Zoning Office has processed about 6000 inquiries and zoning permits. The Zoning Board is committed to professionally administering the Law; maintaining close contact with elected officials, the public, other agencies and the business community; and adapting the Law to changing circumstances.

The minimum requirements for the position are a baccalaureate degree, but preferably a graduate degree, in planning or a related field such as engineering, architecture, urban planning, environmental science, public administration and five years of progressive experience in land use planning, comprehensive planning or land use administration (CNMI Zoning Code § 7222).

Preferred Competencies: Knowledge of zoning and land use control and planning theory and practice including preparation, administration and enforcement. Knowledge of records management techniques including permit record systems, databases and Geographic Information Systems. Proficiency with office software including MS Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, and Internet browsers. Skill in researching printed and Internet documents and ability to quickly compile and analyze information and prepare concise reports. Ability to supervise and motivate others and to cooperatively work in a team setting. Ability to work effectively with Zoning Board members; political, business and community leaders; and with the general public in cross-cultural settings with people with English as a second language. Previous experience administering zoning laws, regulations or ordinances. Ability to balance competing work demands and set priorities. Ability to communicate effectively orally and in writing in English. Ability to work flexible hours, including some evenings and weekends. Ability to drive a stick-shift car and to walk into construction sites and across rough terrain. Work experience in Micronesia, preferably the Northern Mariana Islands, and have working knowledge about laws, government regulations and administrative procedures is an advantage.

The maximum annual salary is $50,000. Health, life and retirement benefits are provided. Information about the Zoning Board and the Zoning Office may be viewed at the Zoning Board website: www.zoning.gov.mp.

Application submittals should be addressed to Herminia Fusco, Chair, Commonwealth Zoning Board and must be received at the Zoning Office by February 19, 2010. Submittals may be sent via e-mail, FAX, U.S. mail, or hand delivered to the address below. Submittals must include a letter of interest, at least three most recent (from 2008 to 2009) writing samples (personally authored), a CNMI Application For Employment, a resume and other documents as listed on the employment application checklist and as requested. The Application for Employment may be downloaded from the publications page of the Zoning Board website. Applicants must be US citizens, permanent residents or immediate relatives. Send submittals to: E-mail: staff@zoning.gov.mp. FAX: 670-234-9666. US Mail: Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 USA. Hand Delivery: Zoning Office, 2nd Floor, Joeten Building, DanDan, Saipan.

Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI)

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: **ATTORNEY**
SALARY: **$50,000 / annum plus benefits (1-2 Year Contract)**

OVERVIEW: The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI), the state-designated agency for protection and advocacy services to individuals with disabilities, seeks to hire someone who is energetic and committed to the cause of insuring that individuals with disabilities are free from abuse, neglect and others forms of discrimination resulting from their disabilities.

GENERAL JOB DESCRIPTION:

This is an exempt professional position responsible for the day-to-day legal services for eligible clients as well as managment and supervision of other program personnel assigned to provide lay-advocacy for individuals with disabilities. The Attorney will be selcted by a panel of NMPASI personnel, will report to the Program Manager and will work under limited supervision within prescribed standards, policies and procedures with considerable latitude for independent action and decision.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Graduation from a U.S. accredited college or university with a Juris Doctorate degree;
- Admitted to Practice Law in the United States District Court of the Northern Mariana Islands; the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and Supreme Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills which allow employee to maintain productivve working relationships with co-workers, clients and other working professionals.

HOW TO APPLY:

Interested applicants may pick up a complete job description and application forms at the NMPASI office located on Middle Road approximately 100 yards north of the Gualo Rai traffic light intersection. Completed application packets must be submitted to the NMPASI Executive Director at the NMPASI Office. In order for applications to be considered, they must include (1) a Cover Letter, (2) a Resume, (3) Completed Application forms and (4) evidence of CNMI Bar admission. Incomplete applications and/or applications which do not demonstrate that the applicant meets minimum qualifications as listed above or do not meet the deadline for submittal will not be considered. For further information, please feel free to contact Mr. James Rayphand at (670) 235-7273/4 [voice] / 235-7278[tty] or email at nmpasi@pticom.com.

NMPASI is an EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 10-RFP-004

DESIGN OF MPLT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND TRUST OFFICE, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design of MPLT Administration Building and Trust Office** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marian Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30.3-305 of the Procurement Regulations.

The scope of the Work will be available on or after **January 22, 2010** at the DPW, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars **(US$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill Office. A Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the Department of Public Works Conference Room, Guaulo Rai Office at **10:00 A.M. on Feb. 10 2010**. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr.**, Director, Technical Services Division, 1353 Mednilla Avenue-Capitol Hill, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time **Feb. 16, 2010.**

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications and Experiences (50%).** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed projects that substantiate the firm's aptitude for projects of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru an employee, join venture or consultant.

2. **Organization and Capacity (35%).** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project schedule.

3. **Response to RFP (15%).** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this RFP.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-004"** For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 19, 2010. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, Feb. 19, 2010 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670)664-1515, or vial e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, Feb. 19, 2010 and must be received no later than March 02, 2010 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Discussion shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the responsible proposers who submit proposals determined to be most reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purposes of clarification and to insure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. A fee shall be negotiated with the highest qualified Architectural and Engineering firms at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then another firm may be selected in the order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed. Award will be made to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined to be most advantageous to the CNMI Government taking into consideration price and the evaluation criteria set out in this **RFP**. No other factors or criteria shall be used in the evaluation.

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JOSEPH M. INOS JR.
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement

/s/ PHILLIP MENDIOLA-LONG
MPLT, CHAIRMAN

Arenas, Crittenton suspended for rest of season

NEW YORK (AP)—When Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton brought their dispute to work, they needed to leave the guns home. Instead, the Washington Wizards guards became the first players to violate NBA rules prohibiting firearms on team property, and commissioner David Stern suspended both without pay for the remainder of the season Wednesday.

Stressing that guns in the workplace "will not be tolerated," Stern delivered the punishment after meeting with Arenas earlier Wednesday, and with Crittenton a day before. Arenas already had been suspended indefinitely by Stern on Jan. 6.

"We have preached to (players) in writing and actually in person on this very subject and nevertheless they brandished firearms and that just can't be tolerated," Stern said on a conference call. "And if there's any doubt to any of our players about it in the future, we will be dealing with this in an even more severe way."

Both players admitted bringing a gun or guns into the Wizards' locker room—violating a provision added to the collective bargaining agreement in 2005—after a dispute stemming from a card game on a team flight. Stern said the players expressed remorse, but added, "nevertheless, there is no justification for their conduct."

Asked what message the penalties sent, Stern said: "We mean what we say when we say that guns are prohibited from being in our buildings and on team business.

"And if you violate that prohibition, which is an agreement between the players' association and the NBA, you will be dealt with harshly because it's very potentially dangerous to our players, to the other players and to anyone else who might be involved."

Arenas, who is forfeiting about $147,200 per game, had already been suspended indefinitely earlier this month. Crittenton, who met with Stern on Tuesday, will lose about $13,435 per game, or $510,530, from his $1.48 million salary.

Arenas pleaded guilty Jan. 15 to a felony gun charge after a confrontation with Crittenton at the Verizon Center. Arenas, who is scheduled to be sentenced March 26, is in the second season of a six-year, $111 million contract and will be docked $7.36 million.

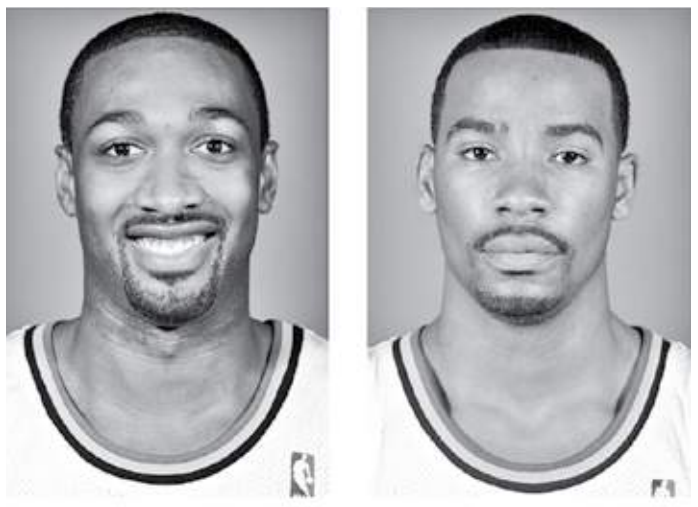
"Mr. Arenas recognizes that his actions were a serious violation of the law and league rules and were detrimental to the NBA and its reputation," said Arenas' attorney, Ken Wainstein. "He accepts full responsibility for what he did, and takes no issue with the length of the suspension or the process that led to the Commissioner's decision."

Arenas has asked the players' association not to contest the penalty, while Crittenton's plans haven't been determined. His agent, Mark Bartelstein, told The Associated Press that, "David Stern has done what he thinks is right for the league. We're going to look at it and talk about it with Javaris and the players' association."

The Wizards have 38 games left in a woeful season that was thrown into turmoil when news of the confrontation involving the guns broke on Christmas Eve. The team has distanced itself from Arenas since Stern indefinitely suspended him, removing his likeness from the Verizon Center. Crittenton has been injured and wasn't playing, anyway.

The team said it supported Stern's ruling, saying the poor judgment "stands in contrast to everything Abe Pollin stood for throughout his life."

"It brings a little bit of closure to a situation that's been very frustrating, very distracting and bothersome to our organization, to our coaches, to our players, most importantly to our fans," team president Ernie Grunfeld said.



AP

In this combo of file photos, Washington Wizards' Gilbert Arenas , left, (2008) and Javaris Crittenton (2009) are shown in Washington.

"Now it's time for us to move forward. We have to move forward, we have to regroup."

Arenas, a three-time All-Star and once the face of the Wizards' franchise, will miss the final 50 games of the season. Stern originally planned to follow his normal policy of waiting until the legal process was further along before acting, but handed down the initial suspension after Arenas joked about the gun situation on his Twitter page, then was photographed before a game in Philadelphia pointing his index fingers, as if they were guns, at his teammates.

"I felt that I should do something to keep Arenas from doing—keep Gilbert from doing—even further damage to himself and I told him that," Stern said. "We also try to protect (players) from doing things that are foolish and damaging. I felt that Gilbert was in the process of doing that and it was incumbent on me to stop it."

Stern said he would not advise the Wizards on how they should proceed if they sought to void the remainder of Arenas' contract. Players' association executive director Billy Hunter warned the union "will respond aggressively to any improper attempt by the team to impose additional penalties."

Stern said he and Hunter would meet in the coming weeks to perhaps build a stronger gun policy than the one in the collective bargaining agreement.

And the Wizards will have to decide if they'll still have a place for Arenas when his suspension ends.

"Bringing handguns into the workplace ... is unacceptable. You can't do it. You want your employees to feel safe, and we're lucky that something worse or something serious didn't come out of it," Grunfeld said. "I think the league has to send a very strong message. We have to send a very strong message also."

Duncan shines, Parker hurt as Spurs win

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Tim Duncan grabbed a career-high 27 rebounds and scored 21 points as the San Antonio Spurs snapped a three-game slide with an impressive 105-90 win over the Atlanta Hawks in Wednesday's NBA action.

Antonio McDyess added 17 points for the Spurs, whose celebrations were muted by an injury to Tony Parker. The point guard went down in the third quarter with a sprained left ankle, the same one that caused him to miss four games earlier this season.

The Spurs will evaluate the extent of the injury Thursday.

The Southeast Division-leading Hawks lost their first game in four despite 31 points from Joe Johnson.

Nuggets 97, Rockets 92

In Houston, Denver made it eight straight wins by downing Houston.

J.R. Smith scored 22 points, while Kenyon Martin added 12 points and 15 rebounds as the Nuggets won successive games without NBA leading scorer Carmelo Anthony (sprained ankle).

Aaron Brooks scored 22 points for the Rockets.

Jazz 106, Trail Blazers 95

In Portland, Oregon, Utah scored 21 of the first 23 points and went on to comfortably beat Portland.

Deron Williams scored 24 points for the Jazz, which led by as many as 26 points during the first half en route to winning for the eighth time in nine games and taking over second place in the Northwest Division.

Portland's LaMarcus Aldridge scored a game-high 25 points.

Lakers 118, Pacers 96

In Indianapolis, Kobe Bryant's 29 points led Los Angeles over Indiana.

Byrant also had nine rebounds and seven assists, while Andrew Bynum added a season-high 27 points to 12 rebounds for the Western Conference-leading Lakers.

Roy Hibbert scored 21 points to top Indiana, which played in front of only its fourth sellout crowd this season.

AP

San Antonio Spurs' Tim Duncan (21) grabs a rebound over Atlanta Hawks' Josh Smith, left, as Hawks' Al Horford looks on during the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, Jan. 27, 2010 in San Antonio.

Raptors 111, Heat 103

In Toronto, Chris Bosh had 24 points and a season-high 18 rebounds as Toronto defeated Miami.

Andrea Bargnani scored 27 points for the Raptos.

Dwyane Wade had 35 points and 10 assists for the Heat, which lost Michael Beasley to injury. Beasley scored six of the Heat's first 13 points but suffered a hyperextended right knee when he landed heavily after missing an alley-oop pass in the first quarter, and took no further part.

Bulls 96, Thunder 86

In Oklahoma City, Chicago won its fourth consecutive road game, overcoming Oklahoma City.

Derrick Rose scored 26 points and Joakim Noah added 13 points and 11 rebounds as the Bulls returned to a .500 win-loss record for the first time in two months.

After Oklahoma City took its only lead late in the third quarter, Chicago went on a 25-7 run to go up 89-73.

Kevin Durant ended a run of 16 straight missed shots for Oklahoma City in the fourth quarter, and finished with 28 points and 11 rebounds.

Cavaliers 109, Timberwolves 95

In Cleveland, the hosts had a comfortable win over Minnesota, ending a string of nail-biters.

J.J. Hickson scored a career-high 23, going 8 from 10 from the field and a perfect seven free throws, while LeBron James added 11 assists for the Cavaliers.

Cleveland was again without injured point guards Mo Williams and Delonte West and rested key players for long periods, but it hardly mattered against the Timberwolves, who dropped to 3-21 outside Minnesota.

Corey Brewer's 22 points led the visitors.

Grizzlies 99, Pistons 93

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Marc Gasol scored eight of his 25 points in the final two minutes as Memphis edged Detroit.

Gasol added 12 rebounds while Zach Randolph had 24 points and 13 rebounds for the Grizzlies, who got at least 14 points from all five starters and won a third straight game.

Detroit suffered a third consecutive loss despite Rodney Stuckey's 17 points and 11 assists.

Hornets 123, Warriors 110

In Oakland, California, Chris Paul scored 38 points to lead New Orleans over Golden State.

Paul shot 14 for 19 from the field, made all nine of his free-throw tries, dished out nine assists and grabbed six rebounds. Marcus Thornton added 18 points for the Hornets.

Monta Ellis returned for Golden State after missing two games with a sprained ankle and had 19 points, nine assists and six rebounds.

Bucks 91, 76ers 88

In Milwaukee, rookie Brandon Jennings hit a 12-footer with 22 seconds left to help Milwaukee pip Philadelphia and end a run of six straight defeats to the 76ers.

Jennings finished with 18 points, as did Charlie Bell as the Bucks improved to 5-0 at home in the new year.

Elton Brand had his best game of the season for the Sixers, scoring a season-high 26 points and adding 10 rebounds, but missed a short shot in the closing seconds, while Andre Iguodala missed a clear tying shot at the buzzer.

Nets 103, Clippers 87

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, victory over Los Angeles meant New Jersey avoided the worst record after 44 games in NBA history.

Kris Humphries scored a career-high 25 points to lift the Nets to a 4-40 record. They blew a 16-point first-half lead in the third quarter but hung on to win for the first time in 2010.

New Jersey snapped an 11-game losing streak, their third double-digit losing skid of the season. Chris Kaman had 24 points and 11 rebounds for the Clippers.

Serena Williams, Henin to meet in final

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)— Defending champion Serena Williams has advanced to her fifth Australian Open final and will put her 100 percent record here on the line against Justine Henin, who is only two tournaments into her comeback from retirement.

Both advanced over Chinese players on Thursday to set up a championship match involving two former Australian champions.

Top-ranked Williams wasted four match points before finishing off a 7-6 (4), 7-6 (1) semifinal win with an ace against Li Na on Thursday, a day after her sister Venus lost to the Chinese player in the quarterfinals.

Henin overwhelmed 2008 Wimbledon semifinalist Zheng Jie 6-1, 6-0 in 51 minutes, the shortest match of this tournament and the most lopsided semifinal at the Australian Open since Chris Evert beat Andrea Jaeger by the same score in 1982.

Williams leads Henin 7-6 in career head-to-heads, although they've never met in a Grand Slam final. Williams won their last match, at Miami in 2008, just before Henin retired suddenly while holding the No. 1 ranking.

"I can't wait for the final. It's such an amazing chance that I have to play another final in Melbourne," said Henin, who won the 2004 title in Melbourne and retired with stomach problems during the 2006 final against Amelie Mauresmo. "It's a very special occasion, but the dream continues.

"I'm going to play the No. 1 player in the world in a Grand Slam final. She's a real fighter."

Serena Williams has won the title every time she's played for the championship since beating Venus here in 2003. The winning sequence has been every odd-numbered year so far.

"I really should have won sooner ... I had so many match points and I blew it and I knew I couldn't mess up my serve because she never gives up," Williams said after posting her 50th career win at Melbourne Park. "She's a real, real amazing fighter.

"Every time I had match points she came up with some big serves and great shots. She just goes for broke."

Williams, the 11-time Grand Slam singles champion, was joining Venus in a doubles semifinal in the afternoon.

China had two players into the semifinals of the same major for the first time but still is yet to get a finalist.

Henin has won seven Grand Slam singles titles but is into her first major since the 2008 Australian Open, when she lost in the quarterfinals to eventual champion Maria Sharapova.

AP

Serena Williams of the United States returns to Li Na of China in their Women's singles semifinal match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010.

Henin is unranked and two tournaments into a comeback from 20 months off the tour, hoping to emulate fellow Belgian Kim Clijsters' win at the U.S. Open.

Clijsters was only three tournaments into a comeback from two years off, and playing on a wild card entry, when she beat both Williams sisters en route to winning the title at New York.

Williams is hoping for better against a Belgian on the comeback this time. Her semifinal loss to Clijsters in New York cost her a record $82,500 fine for a profanity laced tirade against a line judge who called her for a foot fault.

Against Li, she got on top by breaking in the opening game.

Li fended off a set point in the ninth game before holding, then broke Williams' serve in the 10th game to even the match at 5-5.

In the tiebreaker, Williams picked up four of her last five points on unforced errors by Li and then clinched the 58-minute set with a second-service ace.

The second set went with serve, with Li fending off three match points in the 10th game and another in the 12th to force a second tiebreaker. Again, Williams dominated the tiebreaker to race to a 6-1 lead, closing with her 12th ace of the match.

Venus Williams, who had a chance to serve for the quarterfinal on Wednesday against Li before she lost, was watching from the stands. Chinese fans waving their red national flags were sitting in the rows behind her.

No. 5 Andy Murray and No. 14 Marin Cilic were to meet in a semifinal Thursday night after ousting the second- and fourth-seeded players in the quarterfinals.

With Jo-Wilfried Tsonga taking out No. 3 Novak Djokovic late Wednesday night, there was nobody left in the draw who has beaten Roger Federer in a major.

Murray was leading defending champion Rafael Nadal by two sets and a break when the Spaniard retired due to a knee injury; Cilic beat U.S. Open champion Juan Martin del Potro in five sets.

Tsonga beat 2008 champion Djokovic 7-6 (8), 6-7 (5), 1-6, 6-3, 6-1, in a reverse of the outcome of their final here two years ago, and will meet top-ranked Federer in a semifinal on Friday.

Federer advanced to his 23rd consecutive Grand Slam semifinal on Wednesday with a 2-6, 6-3, 6-0, 7-5 win over No. 6 Nikolay Davydenko.

Davydenko's 13-match winning streak was the hottest on tour and included two wins over Federer.

The Russian unloaded everything he had on Federer for a set and a half, until Federer's big-match experience kicked in, he switched gears and won 13 straight games to take the match away from Davydenko.

Federer has made the semifinals or better at every major since Wimbledon in 2004, a record he considers "definitely one of the most incredible things I have in my resume."

De La Hoya sees Mayweather's route to 2 fights

BOXING

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Oscar De La Hoya thinks his promotions company will soon wrap up a deal for Floyd Mayweather Jr. to fight Sugar Shane Mosley in May.

And after that, De La Hoya still believes Mayweather will meet Manny Pacquiao in the not-too-distant future.

"That fight has to happen," De La Hoya said on Tuesday of Mayweather-Pacquiao, which fell apart this month in a drug-testing dispute. "It's too big not to happen. We just have to cross one hurdle."

De La Hoya weighed in on the state of the welterweight division at a news conference to announce the next fight for Victor Ortiz, one of his junior welterweight proteges. Ortiz will headline the first Fight Night Club show of the new year at the downtown Club Nokia on Feb. 25.

De La Hoya, who runs Golden Boy Promotions with chief executive Richard Schaefer, says Mayweather and Mosley are in negotiations to meet on May 1, likely in Las Vegas. De La Hoya is eager to match Mosley, a Golden Boy partner, with Mayweather, who has been represented by Golden Boy in his recent negotiations.

"The various camps are working extremely hard to make it happen," De La Hoya said. "That's the fight that could really take boxing to another level, because it's two great American fighters meeting each other."

EAGLES

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GCA 59, MHS 53

GCA nailed its second straight win last week after stunning the defending champion Dolphins, 59-53.

Deleon, Taylor, and Jeon were at the forefront of the Eagles' offense, again. Deleon and Taylor tallied 18 points apiece, while Jeon contributed 15.

The Dolphins went ahead by nine at the break, 35-29, but failed to neutralize the Eagles trio in the second half, allowing GCA to steal the win.

MHS dropped to a 1-2 record.

KHS 57, MCS 46

The KHS Ayuysu kept their unbeaten record in three games after beating Mt. Carmel School on Monday, 57-46.

After taking a 26-18 halftime lead, Kagman never looked back, as the Knights had only Tim Taguchi carrying the team. Taguchi fired a game-high 22 points and MCS' second highest scorer, Sean Sablan, nailed only nine. Biff Baka added seven and the rest of MCS players scored no more than a field goal dropping the team to a 0-4 slate.

Juan Maratita top-scored for Kagman with 14 markers and he had six teammates making at least four points apiece.

KHS 57 – Maratita 14, Manglona 9, Faisao 8, Lisua 6, Norita 6, Hossain 4, Reyes 4, Brel 2, Kaipat 2, Ogo 2.

MCS 46 – T. Taguchi 22, Sablan 9, Baka 7, Kautz 3, Nicholas 2, Camacho 2, Yang 1.

Scoring by halves: 26-18, 57-46.

GCA 59 – Deleon 18, Taylor 18, Jeon 15, Salas 6, Hong 2.

MHS 53 – Metran 18, Manalili 16, Rasa 4, Ambalan 4, Francisco 4, Aughenbaugh 3.

Scoring by halves: 26-35, 59-53.

GCA 52 – Jeon 22, Taylor 12, Deleon 11, Hong 4, Lewis 2, Salas 1.

SSHS 49 – Benavente 13, Duenas 12, Cadiang 10, Villanueva 4, Jung 4, Fleming 2.

Scoring by quarters: 32-24, 52-49.

DEFENSE

From Page 36

down to prevent easy fastbreak plays," Inos added.

In Game 1, Prospects' ploy worked, as the latter escaped with a 75-68 victory to move a win away from wrapping up the short series. Prospects swept the finals with a 77-74 win in Game 2.

Ol'Aces' Game 1 output was their lowest in the league, while the 74 was their second lowest. Ol'Aces, who finished the regular season in second place with a 6-1 slate, averaged close to 90 points per game, tallying 631 markers in all seven matches in the elimination round.

Ol'Aces gunner Dan Barcinas was in his usual double-figure scoring mode, making 17 in Game 1, but Prospects' defense held him to four field goals in the second half with the last two coming in when the game was already decided.

Prospects' defense also forced Barcinas to commit two crucial turnovers in the closing minutes of Game 1. Barcinas passed the ball to the wrong guy in a fastbreak play, as he had two Prospects defenders chasing him. After a couple of exchanges, he threw a strong pass to Pete Iguel, foiling Ol'Aces' bid to cut the lead to two.

Pete Iguel, who formed Ol'Aces' 1-2 punch, tallied 11 markers in Game 1, but could not make baskets in streaks like the way he did in the regular season. Prospects had Bonbon Cadagat, Quincy Johnson, and Derrick Augenbaugh alternately frustrating Iguel, who had a miserable night in Game 2, drilling only four points. Iguel was among the Top 10 scorers in the league in the regular season, averaging close to 16 points per match.

Other Ol'Aces players who contributed in the team's runner-up finish in the regular season had their hands tied up against Prospects' defense in the championship series.

In the whole series, the then hot-shooting Ol'Aces was held to three triples against Cadagat and company's six.

Besides neutralizing Ol'Aces scorers, Prospects also edged their foes in the rebound department with frontliners Chris Paul, Mike Wright, Alex Lauron, and Darwin Barbo prevailing over their counterparts.

Prospects had 12 offensive rebounds and 29 defensive in Game 1 against Ol'Aces seven and 27. In steals, Prospects made 17 in Game 1 against the nine of the Ol'Aces. In Game 2, Prospects recorded 14 steals, while Ol'Aces tallied only eight.

No star complex

Prospects' roster boasts of "star players/scorers," but according to Inos having highly regarded players did not post problems to the team.

"Even though we have players like Bonbon (Cadagat), Ryan (Sanciangco), Darwin (Barbo), Errol (Peredo), and Quincy (Johnson), finding playing time and roles for these players were not difficult," Inos said.

"Actually, it was a blessing, as Bonbon need not to score that much the way he did in other leagues, as he knew he had his teammates to turn to. If he (Cadagat) sees, he needs to step up, that's the only time we tell him or tell our players to go to him," Inos added.

Cadagat, who scored 32 points in Game 1 in a no-relief job, sat out in the first five minutes of the fourth quarter in Game 2. Ol'Aces made repeated comeback bids in the final canto with Cadagat sitting out, but Prospects still won with Sanciangco and Barbo stepping up.

Sanciangco and Barbo missed Game 1, leaving Cadagat, Peredo, and Paul the tough job to lift Prospects to a crucial series-opener win.

"These are players who are stars in their own right, but they played as team, showed chemistry, and commitment to bring Prospects to the championship," Inos said.

EASY

From Page 36

ever, Ur Balls leftfielder Giovannu Ayuyu threw to catcher John Pangelinan, who tagged out Torres. In the ensuing innings, the best Red Eye could do was make it to second base.

On offense, Ur Balls got two RBIs each from Mike Taitano and George Camacho, while six others tallied at least one run apiece.

San Roque 20, 6-Pack 1

San Roque nearly logged a shutout win when it whipped 6-Pack, 20-1.

San Roque, which improved to a 4-2 record, allowed 6-Pack to make it to the scoreboard only at the bottom of the first inning with Lucian George's single driving leadoff batter Max Kadisang home.

Chad Atalig led San Roque with four RBIs, drilling a three-run homer at the top of the first inning. E.J. Tenoro and Cris Camacho added three RBIs each, while Dave Camacho Jr. chipped in two RBIs.

San Roque had a 6-run top of the first inning with Atalig anchoring the team's good start. San Roque then saved the best for last with an eight-run top of the fourth. 6-Pack failed to extend the game when its first three batters flied out at the bottom of the fourth.

Go For Broke 12, Lancheros 4

In the first game of the night, Go For Broke held Lancheros to one run in the first five innings en route to a 12-4 victory.

Leonard Camacho's single drove Tony Reyes home and put Lancheros in the scoreboard at the bottom of the third. However, Lancheros failed to overall a 1-5 deficit after three complete innings, as Go For Broke shut them out anew in the next two innings.

Lancheros regained their form in the sixth inning, drilling three runs, but still they were no match to Go For Broke's six runs at the top of that inning, increasing the latter's lead to seven, 11-4.

Go For Broke made it a 12-4 count after Brandon Hocog's single drove Shawn Matsutaro home and it pegged the final score when Lancheros' first three batters were thrown out at the bottom of the last inning.

Go For Broke gained its third win in eight games, while Lancheros dropped to a 1-6 slate.

FAME

From Page 36

paid ad that is against abortion. Neither will anybody if CBS decides to pull the plug on it, as they are being pressured.

The problem many sportswriters and others have is that they say the commercial threatens to politicize Super Sunday. Hogwash, I say. If Mrs. Tebow had an abortion like her doctor advised, Tim Tebow would never have been Tim Tebow because he would not have been born. How 30 seconds of hearing about that could offend some people simply boggles my mind. Tim is using his fame how he chooses and if someone doesn't like it, please move over to the lame line.

Then there is the strange case of Gilbert Arenas who has been suspended for the rest of this season for bringing guns into the clubhouse. I am confident the Wizards will try to void the rest of his contract, which is only $80 million. That would buy a lot of guns. Heck, you could buy your own army. And to think these whole shenanigans started over card gambling on the team plane is lame times a million.

Tomorrow Kurt Warner will announce if he will retire or come back for another season. He earned fame the hard way, bouncing around and not making it as a starting NFL quarterback until he was 28. As far as I'm concerned, he's one of the greatest quarterbacks of all time. He was a super Santonio Holmes catch away from two Super Bowl rings. I will remember him forever in that 51-45 shootout over the Packers in one of the greatest performances all of time.

Brett Favre some day, some week, some month, will announce he is retiring, or that he is coming back, or that he has changed his mind again. Whatever. He can do what he likes and it won't bother me at all. His fame is earned and solidified, and he surpassed ordinary into the world of extraordinary about a decade ago.

Only nine days to go to Super Monday (for us), which brings us to Drew Brees and Peyton Manning. They will be at the Pro Bowl in Miami this Sunday, only to receive applause for being named to the all-star team. Whoopee. Then they are to fly back to their teams and then fly back to Miami for the real game. Talk about lame. If it wasn't for all the good things they do, the NFL could be called the National Football Lamers just for that. Better to put the Pro Bowl back to Hawaii where it belongs, where the fame and lame bask together in a tropical who-cares atmosphere.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	29	13	.690	–
Toronto	24	22	.522	7
New York	18	26	.409	12
Philadelphia	15	30	.333	15 1/2
New Jersey	4	40	.091	26

Southeast Division

Atlanta	29	15	.659	–
Orlando	29	16	.644	1/2
Miami	23	22	.511	6 1/2
Charlotte	22	22	.500	7
Washington	14	30	.318	15

Central Division

Cleveland	36	11	.766	–
Chicago	22	22	.500	12 1/2
Milwaukee	19	25	.432	15 1/2
Indiana	16	30	.348	19 1/2
Detroit	15	29	.341	19 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	30	15	.667	–
San Antonio	26	18	.591	3 1/2
Memphis	25	19	.568	4 1/2
New Orleans	25	20	.556	5
Houston	24	21	.533	6

Northwest Division

Denver	31	14	.689	–
Utah	27	18	.600	4
Portland	27	20	.574	5
Oklahoma City	24	21	.533	7
Minnesota	9	38	.191	23

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	35	11	.761	–
Phoenix	26	21	.553	9 1/2
L.A. Clippers	20	25	.444	14 1/2
Sacramento	16	28	.364	18
Golden State	13	31	.295	21

Yesterday's Games

Toronto 111, Miami 103
L.A. Lakers 118, Indiana 96
Cleveland 109, Minnesota 95
New Jersey 103, L.A. Clippers 87
Memphis 99, Detroit 93
Chicago 96, Oklahoma City 86
Milwaukee 91, Philadelphia 88
Denver 97, Houston 92
San Antonio 105, Atlanta 90
Utah 106, Portland 95
New Orleans 123, Golden State 110

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
James, CLE	46	470	354	1377	29.9
Anthony, DEN	38	384	327	1130	29.7
Durant, OKC	44	427	372	1289	29.3
Bryant, LAL	45	470	275	1272	28.3
Wade, MIA	44	421	307	1194	27.1
Ellis, GOL	41	421	198	1071	26.1
Nowitzki, DAL	44	398	284	1109	25.2
Bosh, TOR	45	376	319	1077	23.9
Roy, POR	40	328	213	924	23.1
Jamison, WAS	35	286	139	766	21.9
Johnson, ATL	43	355	123	907	21.1
Randolph, MEM	43	357	180	899	20.9
Evans, SAC	40	304	201	830	20.8
Maggette, GOL	42	274	311	868	20.7
Stoudemire, PHX	47	366	235	967	20.6
Gay, MEM	41	320	166	840	20.5
Jackson, CHA	44	322	182	889	20.2
Kaman, LAC	40	336	132	804	20.1
Duncan, SAN	40	315	163	793	19.8
Rose, CHI	43	356	127	843	19.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	202	319	.633
Gasol, MEM	238	394	.604
Howard, ORL	253	422	.600
Horford, ATL	248	425	.584
Hilario, DEN	235	404	.582
Bynum, LAL	269	477	.564
Stoudemire, PHX	366	661	.554
Lee, NYK	356	643	.554
Landry, HOU	258	467	.552
Millsap, UTA	188	341	.551

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	45	169	428	597	13.3
Noah, CHI	42	162	347	509	12.1
Camby, LAC	43	136	382	518	12.0
Randolph, MEM	43	198	298	496	11.5
Lee, NYK	44	111	391	502	11.4
Bosh, TOR	45	135	365	500	11.1
Wallace, CHA	43	87	384	471	11.0
Boozer, UTA	44	86	391	477	10.8
Haywood, WAS	43	185	272	457	10.6
Duncan, SAN	40	124	291	415	10.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Paul, NOR	36	403	11.2
Nash, PHX	47	517	11.0
Rondo, BOS	41	397	9.7
Williams, UTA	40	384	9.6
Kidd, DAL	44	407	9.3
B. Davis, LAC	44	358	8.1
James, CLE	46	359	7.8
Westbrook, OKC	44	323	7.3
Arenas, WAS	32	230	7.2
Duhon, NYK	44	279	6.3

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

BUDWEISER SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Natibu	7	0
Island Rebels	7	0
Man Amigos	7	1
Chura	6	1
SaiPal	5	2
Freedom Air Flyers	5	2
Ur Balls	5	2
San Roque	4	2
Hitz	4	3
Blazers	3	3
6-Pack	4	4
Red Eye	3	5
Calikano-Falcons	3	5
Go For Broke	3	5
G-Ballers	2	5
Ramblers	2	7
Berdax	1	4
Team Familia	1	5
Lancheros	1	6
X-Terminators	1	6
Team Fuegu	1	7

MISO STANDINGS

Varsity

KHS	3	0
GCA	3	1
SSHS	2	2
MHS	1	2
MCS	0	4

Junior Varsity

KHS	1	0
MHS	1	0
SSHS	0	2
MCS	0	0

38 entered in final week of Tennis Challenge

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The second and final week of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge will have 38 players joining adults singles event to be played tomorrow and on Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

Leading the list are CNMI coach Jeff Race, Peter Loyola, Todd Montgomery, Benjie Decena, and Rafael Jones in the men's open division. These players are vying for slots on the CNMI Team that will compete in the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau in August.

Games in the Loyola Sports Promotion-organized netfest will determine how far these Micro Games hopefuls have gone through since the group started training two months ago.

In the women's open singles, there will be a three-way battle among Lydia Tan, Jodel Fernandez, and Laila Mailman. These three players are also aiming for seats on the CNMI Team. Thea Minor is also trying out for a slot, but will miss this weekend's tournament, as she just came from a three-week tournament in Australia and has a lot of catching up to do in her studies.

Besides the men's open division, there will be three more events for male players entered in the weekend tournament.

In the men's 4.0 division, Christian Miller gained the top seeding after ruling a similar tournament in November last year. Joining him are Jang Dong Ik, Rafael Jones, Daniel Park, Gary Ramsey, Jake Lee, Carl dela Cruz, and newcomer Anthony Wenceslao.

The men's 3.0 has Angelo Jones as top seed. Seven others will challenge Jones for the men's 3.0 singles crown, namely Clay McCullough-Stearns, Randy Steele, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Chris Park, Kennedy Izuka, Matthew Lopez, and Dela Cruz.

The men's 2.0 singles drew eight entries in Clayton Izuka, Alex Park, Moris Villanueva, Amami Sakano, Seiya Eda, Joel Jang, Luther Lizama, and Aaron Lee

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Moris Villanueva, seen here going for a backhand return in last weekend's junior singles event at the AMP courts, will join the men's 2.0 singles event of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge this weekend.

The women's 4.0 singles will be a toss between Vickie Izuka and Mikayla Lopez, while the women's 3.0 singles will have Melanie Daly, Maro Villanueva, Emily Jones, and Sakura Imaya.

Games called off during the junior singles competition last week will also be played this weekend. Mikayla Lopez will meet Daniel Park in Level 4 finals, while players in Level 2 will resume the consolation games to determine the third and fourth placers of the event.

Winner in both juniors and adults singles will be recognized at the awards ceremony on Sunday at AMP.

SLLB golf fundraiser tomorrow

All is set for the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball, Inc. Golf Fundraising Tournament, which will kick off tomorrow at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort on Jan. 30.

SLLB president Tony Rogolifoi said they are expecting to have more than 80 golfers participating in the tournament aiming to raise funds for the operational costs of the 2010 season of SLLB.

Cash prizes totaling $2,400 await top placers in the double-peoria tournament. Top 6 placers in the low net category will get cash prizes with the first finisher winning $500, $400 for second, $300 for third, $200 for fourth, and $100 each for fifth and sixth.

In the lowest gross in the men's division, the champion will get $200, while the Top 3 finishers in the women's low gross category will take home $300, $200, and $100.

Besides the cash prizes, a 2010 Mazda 3-I 4-door is at stake as hole-in-one prize on the par-3 No. 17 hole. The brand new car hole-in-one prize is courtesy of Triple J Motors.

SLLB meeting Tuesday

Meanwhile, Rogolifoi is calling on all coaches or managers of participating team to attend an important meeting on Feb. 2 at the pavilion inside the Oleai Sports Complex.

The meeting is set for 6pm with Rogolifoi and other SLLB officials expected to discuss changes in the opening date of the league.

From the original schedule of Feb. 21, SLLB is planning to start the league early or on Feb. 14. Rogolifoi said the LG Twins are leaving on Feb.10 so the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfields will be available early.

For more information, contact Rogolifoi at 288-3515, vice president Ben Jones at 285-1952, treasurer Walter Macaranas at 483-9258, or Manny Tenorio at 323-8366. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

RGA elects board members; sets Jan. Ace Sunday

Refaluwasch Golf Association named nine members to its 2009 board with Jordan Kosam reelected president of the group.

Kosam

Joining Kosam on the board are vice president Tom Tebuteb, secretary Tars Olopai, tournament director Dwaine Stephens, handicap chairman Tony Rogolifoi, public relation officer Joe Saures, fundraising chairman Jesse Seman, and membership chairman Ray Tigilau.

Meanwhile, RGA will be holding its January Ace tournament this Sunday at Coral Ocean Point.

The score to beat is 68, which Ulysis Kapileo recorded during the January Ace qualifier on Jan. 17, also at Laolao Bay Golf Resort. ***(PR)***

Check-in time for Sunday's tournament is 10am, while tee off is at 11am.

RGA members wishing to join the event must pay the $30 greens fee and $30 tournament fee. Golfers who have yet to apply for membership with RGA, are still welcome. Annual membership has been lowered to $25.

Besides its January Ace tournament this weekend, the group is also encouraging its members to participate in the Saipan Little League Baseball's fundraising tournament this Saturday at the COP. If no RGA player scores better than 68, Kapileo gets to keep the first monthly Ace and notch the first ticket to the club championship.

Enticer 1 schedules two courses

Joshua Berger moves out of the water in last year's Enticer 1.
SAIPAN TRIBUNE

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Adventure Sports Club has set two courses for Enticer 1 scheduled on Feb. 13.

Next month's event, which will be one of the tournaments SASC is organizing to prepare triathletes for the 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championships and 2010 Tagaman Triathlon, will have the short and long courses.

The short course will have participants completing a 500-meter swim at Paupau Beach, a bike race from Paupau to Bird Island and back with no detour to Grotto or Banzai, and a run from Paupau Marianas Resort entrance and back.

The long course will have a distance of 1,000m for the swim part. The bike leg will be from Paupau to Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, Banzai, and back. The run part will start at Paupau to FEBC entrance and back.

Registration fee is $5 for non-members and free for members, provided the latter had already paid the annual membership fee of $25. Registration will begin at 5:30am, while the race will kick off a 6:30am.

SASC's Enticer 1 will hit the road a month before the Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Tour returns to Saipan.

XTERRA Saipan Championship is set for March 13 with one of the biggest triathlon events in the Commonwealth expected to attract not only local bets, but also world-class athletes.

The list includes returnees and defending champions Sam Gardner of the United Kingdom and Renata Bucher of Switzerland.

Gardner touched the tape at the American Memorial Park with the clock reading at two hours, 34 minutes, and 32 seconds to finish first overall in 2009 and eclipsed the time (2:46:51) of 2008 winner Andrew Noble of Australia. Bucher was the seventh pro to break the under three-hour mark after making it to the finish line in 2:56:55, which was better than her 2008 time of 3:12:46.

Gardner and Bucher and several other professional triathletes are likely to stay on Saipan for one more week to compete in Tagaman, which is scheduled for March 20.

Co-ed soccer league to kick off Feb. 1

A co-ed soccer league will return at the Commonwealth Ports Authority Field next month organized by Saipan Co-ed Soccer League, the Spring Kick 2010 will open shop on Feb. 1 and will run until April. Games will be played twice a week or every Monday and Wednesday.

Organizers are hoping to attract more teams in the spring edition of the league, which held its first event three years ago. Last year, the league lured four teams.

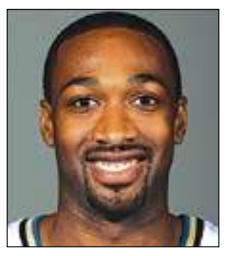
The league is open to all adult players, especially recreational strikers aiming not only to have fun at the pitch, but also to improve their skills.

"Those without playing experience are welcome to join the league," said Jhie Vallo, one of the coordinators of the league.

To encourage new players, the league will be holding registration until the kick-off date.

For more information, contact jhievallo@yahoo.com or at 898-4892 or David Khorram at david@marianas-eye.com. ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players in action in last year's co-ed soccer league at the CPA Field.



Arenas, Crittenton suspended for rest of season

When Gilbert Arenas and Javaris Crittenton brought their dispute to work, they needed to leave the guns home.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

38 entered in final week of Tennis Challenge

The second and final week of the 2010 Saipan Tennis Challenge will have 38 players joining adults singles event to be played tomorrow and on Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

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Eagles claw Rays to keep streak

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy is on a roll in the varsity division of the 2010 MISO Basketball League after surviving Saipan Southern High School, 52-49, on Wednesday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The victory was the Eagles third in a row after losing their debut to Kagman High School two weeks ago. The win also sent a strong signal to defending champion MHS and early leader KHS Ayuyus that the Eagles are returning as a contender this year.

The Ed Salas-coached GCA almost bungled a nine-point lead, 41-32, midway in the second half, before clutch baskets from Dae Min Jeon saved the day for the Eagles.

The GCA Eagles pose for a group photo before playing in the varsity division of the 2010 MISO Basketball League last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Jeon scored seven of GCA's last nine points, while Kevin Deleon canned two free throws to lift the Eagles to a three-point win.

Deleon's pair of charities gave GCA more breathing space, 49-46, with 1:32 left, and Southern failed to cut the lead to one when John Paul Villanueva split his charities.

Jeon made it a 50-47 when he went 1-for-2 at the stripe. He later drilled a layup, upping the lead to five, 52-47, with less than 40 seconds remaining on the clock.

An Ian Benavente putback off Toby Fleming's miss kept the Rays in the game, 49-52, and Southern still had a chance to inch closer or tie the match when Jeon lost the ball to the baseline in GCA's next offensive set.

With 6.1 seconds left, Southern made an inbound and Melvin Cadiang pulled up for a trey, but missed. Jeon collared the defensive rebound and hung on to the ball until time expired, securing GCA's third consecutive win.

Jeon led the Eagles with 22 points, while Luther Taylor and Deleon added 12 and 11, respectively.

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Easy wins for 3 teams in Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ur Balls cruised to their fifth win in Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League after shutting out Red Eye, 11-0, on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Pitcher Ray Aldan recorded six strikeouts and Ur Balls' defense held Red Eye to a 5-for-25 performance at bat for a dismal average of .200. Red Eye had his best chance to score at the bottom of the first inning when right fielder Noki Torres reached third base and then sprinted to home plate. How-

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Manny Tenorio, seen here walking to the dugout, pitched in San Roque's 20-1 win over 6-Pack in the Chamolinian softball league on Wednesday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Defense leads Prospects to championship

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Prospectsswept their way to the championship in the 2009 UBA/Miller Lite Men's Basketball League using a tried-and-tested game plan: defense.

"It has been said a lot of times and I am saying it again. Offense wins games, defense wins championships," playing coach Perry Inos Jr. said after Prospects won the best-of-three title series, 2-0, against Ol'Aces on Monday.

"Ol'Aces are a very good team. They have good scorers, who can score both inside and outside so our focus going into the finals was to limit their scorers and slow the game

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Ol'Aces' Jack Lizama, center, loses the ball, against the pressure defense of Prospects' Eli Aughenbaugh, right, and Darwin Barbo during Game 2 of their title series in the UBA caging on Monday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Fame and lame

Any book lover should get a copy of Tim Winton's "Breath" and read what is in essence Australia's "Catcher in the Rye", a story that beautifully captures the transition from youth to young manhood using surfing as the backdrop.

The author delves into what separates ordinary from extraordinary and how we ourselves come to define ourselves. There's more than enough in the thin book for more than one simple newspaper column but it does force one to think about the drive to achieve personal glory, however we see it, and in the end, that is all that matters —how we define ourselves, not how others do it to us.

In that spirit, I offer these comments on people we see on the sports highlights all the time who have already achieved a measure of fame, yet continue to seek and mold their destiny, not to fit our own dreams but their own.

We do not get to see the Super Bowl commercials due to circumstances beyond our control (they are not on the satellite feed that comes to us), so we will not see Tim Tebow and his mother Pam in a

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OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2